

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Kupwara man dies after being hit by vehicle in Qazigund

QAZIGUND, Oct 6 (Agencies): A 74-year-old man died after being hit by a vehicle in Bonigam area of Qazigund in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said Sunday. An official said that the accident took place near Bonigam late last night.

He said the man suffered critical wounds and was shifted to a hospital, where he was declared brought dead.

The deceased had been identified as Abdul Rashid Sheikh son of Wali Mohammad Sheikh of Kupwara.

Parasites like Yati Narsinghanand enemies of peace: J-K Waqf chief Darakhshan Andrabi



SRINAGAR, Oct 6 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf board chairperson and BJP leader, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi Sunday criticized the remarks made by the Hindutva militant Yati Narsinghanand about the holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). His remarks have sparked strong protests by Muslims across India.

While condemning Yati's remarks, Andrabi urged the ruling party to subject the hate preparator to severe punishment.

"I strongly condemn the highly objectionable remarks of Yati Narsinghanand about the great prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (SAW). He should be given a severe punishment for hurting the sentiments of crores of believers. Such parasites are enemies of peace," Andrabi wrote on her official X-handle.

Hate speech: Ulemas of J-K, Ladakh urge HM to take action against Yati Narsinghanand

SRINAGAR, Oct 6 (Agencies): The Ulemas (Muslim scholars) of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh Sunday wrote to Home Minister

J&K Assembly Polls | Three-Tier security arrangements in place at counting centres

SRINAGAR, Oct 6 (Agencies): Stringent security arrangements have been put in place at all district headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir for the counting of votes on Tuesday for the 90-member assembly, paving way for first elected Government in the Union Territory following the abrogation of Article 370 five years ago.

A three-tier security



arrangements has been put in place at all the 20 counting centres across

Jammu and Kashmir where the votes will be counted on Tuesday,

said an official of the Election Commission.

The first assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir since 2014 was held over three phases with 24 seats going to polls in the first phase on September 18. The second phase of polling was held on September 18 in which 26 seats went to polls while the polling for remaining 40 seats was held on

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Indian Army seizes huge cache of weapons, explosives in Poonch



JAMMU, Oct 6 (Agencies): The Indian Army's Romeo Force seized a huge cache of weapons and explosives in the

Jhullas area of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Saturday.

According to the Army

officials, a search was launched based on a tip-off and the weapons and explosives were recovered from a suspected terrorist bag.

The officials said that the recovered items included AK 47 and Pistol rounds of Pakistani origin and sophisticated explosives like RCIED, Timed destruction IED, Stove IED, explosives for IED and Chinese Grenades.

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Confident of pro-development votes in J&K, BJP to form Govt: Bhandari

NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (Agencies): With exit polls projecting a tight race in Jammu and Kashmir (J-K), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National Spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari expressed confidence that the party would receive strong support for its pro-development agenda.

Bhandari said, "We are confident that, whether in Jammu or the Valley, the party will secure pro-development votes. We



have observed similar trends in Chhattisgarh, where the BJP formed the government, and we are expecting the same outcome in Haryana." He further noted that polling feedback pointed

towards a BJP victory in J-K.

"A BJP government will be formed in Jammu and Kashmir. The feedback received from the polling has strongly indicated this. The elections held after the abrogation of Article 370 were a historic moment and a victory for democracy," Bhandari added.

Commenting on the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Bhandari suggested that they

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Why is it so difficult to follow Gandhi's path, asks Wangchuk as he is denied to protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar



NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (Agencies): The Ladakh based climate activist Sonam Wangchuk Sunday said that his group has been denied

to hold a protest at New Delhi's historic Jantar Mantar.

Wangchuk, who along with around 100 activists started a foot march

towards the national capital from Leh on September 1. They demand a statehood for Ladakh and also seek Ladakh's inclusion in the sixth schedule of the Indian constitution. Wangchuk and his comrades were first detained at Delhi border on Oct 1, but were later released.

However, on Sunday, the noted environmental activist took to his official handle on X, announcing his 'frustration' over the orders of the Delhi

administration. Wangchuk said that they had received a rejection letter today morning, refusing them to hold protest at their designated place-Jantar Mantar.

"If Jantar Mantar is not allowed then please tell us which place is allowed. We want to abide by all laws and still express our grievance in a peaceful way," he wrote.

"Why is it so difficult to

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Punjab AAP leader hospitalised after being shot during argument with Akali Leader in Jalalabad



NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (Agencies): An Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)

leader in Punjab was injured after he was hit by a bullet allegedly fired

by a leader of the Shiromani Akali Dal during a heated argument. The incident was reported from Punjab's Fazilka district.

Local AAP leader Mandep Singh Brar, who suffered a bullet injury, was taken to a government hospital in Punjab's Jalalabad city,

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"No need to think about India's foreign policy": Kavinder on Mirwaiz Farooq statement

JAMMU, Oct 6 (Agencies): Former Deputy Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and BJP leader Kavinder Gupta on Sunday advised chairperson of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umar Farooq to refrain from commenting on India's foreign policy, emphasizing that the government is capable of handling its



relations with Pakistan. Gupta's statement comes after Mirwaiz expressed hope that

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's upcoming visit to Pakistan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting would lead to constructive engagement between the two nations.

Kavinder Gupta said, "The Ministry of External Affairs and the Government of India will think

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Gulmarg, Razdan Pass receive season's first snowfall; rains affect plains

SRINAGAR, Oct 6 (Agencies): Higher reaches of Kashmir valley, including Gulmarg and Sonamarg, received snowfall while plains were lashed by rains, resulting in a drop in temperature on Sunday, officials said.

Higher reaches of Kashmir valley, including the mountainous range of Affarwat in Ski



resort of Gulmarg, the tourist destination of Sonamarg, Sinthan Top,

Razdan Top, and Pir Panjal Range, received

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TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt Bimla Hangshoo** W/o Tej Krishan Hangshoo of Sangrampora Sopore on 03-10-2024.



Smt Bimla Hangshoo

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 12-10-2024, 08:30 hrs at Muthi Ghat near Dir. School Education A/p H No. 102 Ambika Vihar Gole Gujral Camp near PHC Talab Tillo Jammu.

Grief Stricken :

Tej Krishan Hangshoo (Husband) - 9419210890, 9796062628 (Brother & Bhabhi)
Smt Sunita & Sanjay Hangshoo - 9419206730, 9149607885
Daughter & Son in law
Smt Kanchan & Sunil Ji Bhat - 9906356219
Sister & Brother in law
Smt Bimla & S K Bhat (Lalad) - 9419220100
Smt Sharma Koul - 09990296723
Smt Sunita & P J Bhat - 8492094581
Smt Lovely & M K Pandita - 9419157873
Grand Child: Nidhaan

KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mr. Ajeet Kumar Sharma** S/o LT. Sh. Gian Sarup on 27 September 2024.



MR. AJEET KUMAR SHARMA

Kriya will be performed on 7th of October 2024 (Monday) at our residence 63 A 2nd Extension Gandhi Nagar Jammu after 12:00 PM onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sunita Sharma - **Wife**
Daughter & Son-in-law
Heena Sharma & Amit Varindani
Son & Daughter-in-law
Aman Sharma & Vidhu Sindwani
Brothers & Sisters-in-law
V M Sharma & Shashi Bala Sharma
Ashok Sharma & Usha Sharma
Anoop Sharma & Ritu Sharma
Sister & Brother in law
Kamlesh Sharma & Amamath Sharma
Mob. 8899274708, 7006416122

TENTH DAY

With Profound Grief & Sorrow, We inform the sad demise of Our beloved Father **Sh Krishan Chand Sharma Ji (K C SHARMA JI) Retd. Head Master** S/o Late. Sh. Pandit Dittu Ram Ji R/o Old Hospital Road, Ward No. 10, Katra.



Sh Krishan Chand Sharma Ji (K C SHARMA JI) Retd. Head Master

Tenth Day:- will be performed on 7th of October Monday at 11AM at Raghunath Mandir, Katra.

Kriya:- will be performed on 8th of October at our residence at 12 AM onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Vijay Laxmi (Rani Madam) Retd. Teacher (Wife)
Smt. Madhuri Padha & Sh. Vinod Padha (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Smt. Ruchi and Amit Sharma (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Sh. Sumit Sharma (Son)
Grand Children : Ayanna, Upagya, Kavyansh, Pavani

TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Bipul Kohli** S/o Lt. Sh. Shashi Kohli R/o 106-A, Ramvihar, Old Janipur, Jammu and Khealani Doda on 27/9/2024.



Bipul Kohli

Tenth Day shall be performed on 8/10/2024 (Sunday) at Community Hall, Opp. India Public School, Janipur, Jammu from 11.00 am.

Kriya / Uthala on 9/10/2024 (Wednesday) at Shiv Mandir, Janipur Colony, Opp. Govt. Qtr. from 12.00 Noon and Uthala from 4.00 to 5.00 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Asha Kohli W/o Lt. Sh. Shashi Kohli (Mother)
Smt. Neha Kohli (Wife)
Smt. Anjali Kohli & Atul Kohli (Bhaya & Bhabhi)
Smt. Shivani Suri & Rahul Suri (Sister & Brother-in-law)
Aarav Kohli (Son) & Vanika Kohli (Daughter)
Note : Tenth Day / Kriya of Late Smt. Kamla Kohli Grand Mother of Bipul Kohli shall also be performed on same date and Venue.

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Kanta Devi Bhan** W/o Lt. Sh. MOHAN LAL BHAN originally resident of Satepora Srinagar at present Jagti Block 166 Flat 16 Lane 25. We are **MOURNING** at Community Hall lane no 4, Near Block 14 Back Side Jagti Nagrota who left for heavenly abode on 01 Oct 2024.



SMT KANTA DEVI BHAN

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 10 Oct 2024 Thursday, Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education at 8 AM onwards.

Assembly at 10 AM Community Hall lane no 4 Near Block 14 Back Side Jagti Nagrota.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

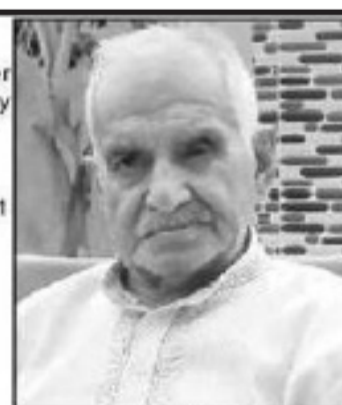
Rewti Bhan (DAUGHTER IN LAW)
(GRAND SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)
Hannah Bhan & Poja Bhan (DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW)
Mrs Kiran Koul & Mr Anil Koul
Mrs Champo & Mr Bilu J Rana
Mrs Neelu Bhat & Mr Raj Nath Bhat
GRANDCHILDREN > Jyoti, Pavesh, Varsha, Mohit, Sai, Gungun

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Bhan, Koul, Rana and Bhat Parivars
CONTACT NO: 982222951, 7006740075

10TH DAY / KARAM

With deep sorrow and grief we inform that our father **Ram Singh** Retd. Girdawar left for his heavenly abode on 28/09/2024.



RAM SINGH Retd. Girdawar

10th Day will be performed on 07/10/2024.
KARAM will be performed on 10/10/2024, at our Residence GULMOHAR VILLA, H.No. 0551 W.No.11, Trikuta Nagar (West) Udhampur. Land mark Near TVS SHOWROOM Udhampur.

Grief Stricken:-

Krishna Devi (Wife)
Sons & Daughters in law
Rashpal Singh & Babita
Purshottam Singh & Bindu
Narender Singh & Monika
Daughter & Son in law
Pushpa Kumari & Rachhpaul Singh
Grand Children: Nikhila, Akhileshwar, Ujja, Ujwal, Ishika, Shubh, Abdwesh & Ganavya

TENTH DAY KRIYA

Our beloved and revered mother **Smt. Phoola Bhat** W/o Late Sh. Brij Nath Bhat, originally resident of Adina, Magam (Kashmir), at present Lane No. 26, H.No. 13/C-II, Bhawani Nagar Jammu left for her heavenly abode on 28th September, 2024.



SMT. PHOOLA BHAT

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 7th October, 2024 (Monday) at 8.30 AM at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of School Education, Muthi, Jammu.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY

Ravinder Bhat & Manju Bhat - **Son & Daughter-in-law**
Sushil Bhat & Jolly Bhat - **Son & Daughter-in-law**
Aryan, Vgyat & Krishi - **Grand Children**
Samast Bhat Parivar, Panditas, Pahalwans, Tickoos, Ganjoos, Lidhus
Mob: 9419874914; 7006112663; 9006388842

UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Sham Lal Gupta** S/o Late Sh. Jai Lal Gupta R/o H.No. 11 Sec-A Block-B Subash Nagar, Rajpura Road, Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 21-09-2024.



Sh. Sham Lal Gupta

UTHALA will be held on Monday 07-10-2024 from 4 PM to 5 PM at Hari Mandir Rehari Road, Rehari Colony, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Shashi Gupta - **Wife**
Sister-in-law & Brothers
Smt. Asha & Sh. Kishore Gupta
Smt. Ashu & Sh. Vinod Gupta
Smt. Charu & Sh. Joginder Gupta
Daughter-in-law & Sons
Smt. Sakshi & Sh. Aman Gupta
Smt. Deepika & Sh. Anuj Gupta
M/S Sham Lal & Bros (Boota Ram Market, Purani Mandi)
Rangla Punjab (Gandhi Nagar)
Nai Delhi (Trikuta Nagar)
MOB: 9797311777, 9419136565, 941986113, 9419281774, 9419105570

Tenth Day/Kriya/Uthala

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our father **Sh Ramesh Kumar Sharma** R/o H.No. 11, Lane 27, Rajpura, Jammu on 27-9-2024.



Sh Ramesh Kumar Sharma

Tenth Day will be performed at our residence Rajpura on 6-10-2024 at 11 am.

Kriya will be performed at our residence on 7-10-2024 at 12 Noon.

Uthala will be performed at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony on 7-10-2024 from 5.30 PM to 6.30 PM.

Grief Stricken

Mr Neeraj Sharma - **Son**
Mrs Vijay Khajuria - **Daughter-in-law**
Mr Dheeraj Sharma - **Son**
Mrs Tanvi Sharma - **Daughter-in-law**
Mr K P Sharma - **Son-in-law**
Mrs Renuka Sharma - **Daughter**
Mr Upkar Khajuria - **Son-in-law**
Mrs Jyoti Khajuria - **Daughter**

Mobile No. 882500822, 9906906331

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt Kamla Gupta** W/o Late Mehta Bansi Lal Gupta (Master Ji) who left for heavenly abode on 26-09-2024.



SMT KAMLA GUPTA

10TH DAY of our beloved Mother Late **Smt Kamla Gupta** will be performed on 5th Oct 2024 at 10.30 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 8th Oct 2024 at 11.30 AM both at our residence 247-A Kachi Chowni (Gali Tanga Wali).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Raju Mehta - **Son**
Sh. Sandeep Mehta - **Son**
Daughters & Sons in Law
Ramni Gupta & Kulbushan Gupta
Anila, Vijay, Sonia

MOBILE NO: 9419104259, 7889597516, 9682369073

KRIYA / UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Kamla Chib** W/o Late Sh. Charanjeet Singh Chib (A.E.E Retd) who left for heavenly abode on 24th September 2024.



Smt. Kamla Chib

KRIYA will be performed on 6-10-2024 Sunday at 11.30 AM, H.No. 100 Lane No. 7, Talab Tillo, Jammu & **Uthala** will be performed on 7-10-2024 (Monday) at 5.00 PM, A/sar Guest house near AG office, Shakti Nagar.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Sushil Singh Chib & Smt Anju Chib
Sh. Rakesh Singh Chib & Smt. Deepi Manhas Chib
Daughters & Son-in-law
Smt. Chand Rajput & Sh. Ravi Singh
Smt. Sunita Thakur & Sh. Rajesh Thakur
Smt. Poonam Salathia & Sh. Kulbushan Salathia & ALL GRAND CHILDREN

OBITUARY

With profound grief, we inform sad demise of our beloved **Smt Raj Dulari Tikoo**, W/o Shri Shuban Ji Tikoo on Saturday, 28th September 2024 at Gurgun.



Smt Raj Dulari Tikoo

(Original resident of 9, Bagdagi, Rainawari Srinagar, Kashmir)

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Murad Nagar, on Monday 7th October, 2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

TIKOO'S, TURK'S AND KOUL'S RESIDENCE,
MS-10, FLAT NO. 504, KENDRIYA VIHAR, SECTOR -56, GURUGRAM, HARYANA
PIN CODE : 122011
Ph. 9810745760

Obituary/ Tenth Day Kriya

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Indrawati Tak** W/o Lt. Sh. Jai Lal Tak originally resident of Sangrampora, Sopore, A/P 111/A, Janki Vihar, Old Janipur, Jammu on 2nd Oct. 2024.



Smt. Indrawati Tak

10th Day Kriya will be performed on Friday, 11th Oct at 8:30 hrs at Muthi Ghat, Jammu (near Directorate of School Education)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Raj Nath Tak & Smt. Usha Tak
Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-law
Ashwani & Ayusha
Anil & Namrata
Arun & Aparna
All Grand Children
Samast Tak & Zutia Parivar.
M/S GULPOSH, Patel Bazar, Jammu.
Contact: 9419201258, 7889525299

OBITUARY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA

With deep sorrow and profound grief, we announce the sad demise of **Smt. Mohan Rani (Aaji)**, beloved wife of Late Sh. Mohan Lal Handoo and D/o Lt. Sh. Sham Lal Razdan, originally from Salla, Anantnag, who left for her heavenly abode on 28th September, 2024 at Delhi. A pillar of strength and kindness, she was cherished by all who knew her for her warmth and dedication to her family.



Smt. Mohan Rani (Aaji)

Her loss is deeply felt by her loved ones, including her children, grandchildren, great grand children and relatives. The family will hold prayers in her honor and requests friends and well-wishers to keep her in their thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be held at Gauri Shankar Mandir, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon on 7th October, 2024 at 6:30 a.m. and assembly will be held at our residence, Golden Heights Sector 12, Dwarka, New Delhi.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Suniti Kristen and Latta Handoo - **Son and Daughter in law**
Prestiman Kristen and Dusan Handoo - **Son and Daughter in law**
Sharanjit Handoo W/o Lt. Subash Handoo - **Daughter in law**
Renu and P.L. Bhat - **Daughter and Son in law**
Grand Children
Abiramu, Sumeet, Moneeshi, Anuj Ji, Vishal, Sakshi, Sachin, Shaurya, Shrus, Suman & Gupta
Arundina, Ashika, Myra - **Great Grandchildren**
and the entire HANDOO, BHAT, RAZDAN, RAJIA families, relatives, friends and well-wishers.

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SHADMOS/ VAHARVAR

A year has passed since you left us, yet not a single day goes by without your presence in our hearts. Your wisdom, love & kindness continue to guide us through our lives. Though you are no longer with us, your spirit continues to live in our cherished memories. May Almighty bestow peace to the noble departed soul.



Late Smt. Premlata Kaushik (Manwati) (Gud Sab)

SHADMOS & VAHARVAR of our beloved Gudiji, **Smt. Premlata Kaushik (Manwati)** D/o Late Sh. Jagannath Manwati of 82 - Gund Ahalmar, Nai Sadak, Srinagar (Kashmir) presently R/o H.No.2139, Thandapadder, Udhampur will be performed on 6th/7th October, 2024 at Sharda Sadan, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.

GRIEF STRICKEN

PRADEEP KAUSHIK MOBILE: 9419205338
KAUSHIKS, MANWATIS & ALL NEARS & DEARS.

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Saligram Mussa (Retd. Branch Manager, National Insurance Company) S/o Lt. Sh. Hriday Nath Mussa** R/o Martand, Mattan Anantnag Kashmir, Presently at H.No. 220/B, Lane No-3, Friends Sector, Subash Nagar, Jammu.



Sh. Saligram Mussa (Retd. Branch Manager, National Insurance Co)

10TH DAY KRIYA will be held on 12th of October 2024 (Saturday) at 9:00 AM near Directorate of School Education Muthi, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Kanta Devi - **Sister**
Smt. Usha Ji & Sh. Sanjay Mussa (LIC of India) - **Daughter-in-law & Son**
Smt. Sunita Santoshi & Sh. Sunil Mussa - **Daughter-in-law & Son**
Smt. Nisha & Sh. Bimal Ji Khar - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Grand Children : Rahul, Neha, Rohit, Deepika, Surbhi, Shubam, Sheen, Duggu & Arshu.
Contact : 9419307072, 7889418178, 9697208649
Samast Mussa's, Kichloo's, Tickoo's & Khar Parivar

LG admin urged to order enquiry to unveil sorry state of affairs in DDE

Career of students at risk as JU's DDE lacks DEB-UGC approval to run courses: Dr Vikas

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 6: The former president of Jammu University Research Scholars Executive Association (JURSEA), Dr Vikas Sharma today made a startling disclosure regarding the state of affairs in Directorate of Distance Education (DDE) of University of Jammu (JU) stating that the courses being run there sans approval of Distance Education Bureau (DEB) of University Grants Commission (UGC).

Addressing a press conference, Dr Sharma alleged that the DDE had failed to obtain necessary approval from the UGC to run Post Graduate and Undergraduate under distance mode which has put at risk the career of thousands of students who are pursuing their courses from JU's DDE.



"The incumbent Director of DDE, Prof Pankaj Srivastava has miserably failed to fulfill his statutory obligations which led to a mess in the DDE. He along with his team of officers have failed to obtain mandatory approval from DEB to run distance mode academic programs owing to which the careers of thousands of students pursuing their studies from the institution are at risk," he said. He claimed that a committee was formed around one and half year ago to sort out the issues related

to DEB approval but the incumbent Director got that committee abolished and didn't pursue the matter despite several communications from DEB. "As a result, the DDE has not been able to make fresh admissions for the current academic session. But, neither the Vice Chancellor nor the Director DDE are serious about this crisis," he added. Dr Sharma alleged that the DEB had also sought plagiarism reports related to study material of various courses run by DDE

and the incumbent Director failed to furnish the same. "The University has spent lakhs of rupees in printing the study material in advance without even furnishing the plagiarism report which means all that printed material stocked in DDE will be trashed and expenditure of lakhs of rupees will go waste," he explained.

He also highlighted that JU miserably failed to get approval to run Online Mode courses which was evident from the fact that it got approval only for two courses where University of Kashmir got eight courses in the list. "DDE Director Prof Pankaj Srivastava only went for two Online Courses i.e. MA English and M.Com and that too owing to his personal interest whereas, he could have secured 7-8 courses and made something remarkable for the students of Jammu region. It is pathetic that

only 5 students have got themselves enrolled for M.A English whereas M.Com has attracted zero. It means that these courses were not liked by students at all for online mode," he claimed.

Dr Sharma alleged that it was due to incompetence of the incumbent Vice Chancellor that affairs in DDE have gotten murkier and chaos was at its peak. "The Vice Chancellor is only worried about getting his term extended to enjoy the privileges of post whereas the career of hundreds of students pursuing their studies in JU has been compromised," he further said.

The former JURSEA president demanded from the LG administration to immediately order an enquiry into this whole fiasco and get the DEB approval at the earliest to restore the confidence of students back in the institution.

Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir seeks restoration of Statehood and Article 370

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 6: Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood, held a significant meeting today with Dr. Farooq Abdullah at his residence, focusing on pressing issues facing Jammu and Kashmir post-abrogation of Article 370, including the restoration of statehood and the dismantling of Jammu and Kashmir into union territories. The two leaders discussed the hardships faced by the people, particularly the youth, and outlined future strategies in light of upcoming assembly elections.

During the meeting, Dimple congratulated Dr. Abdullah on the potential for a National Conference-Congress alliance to form a majority government, expressing public support for Abdullah and his son, Omar, as chief ministers. Dr. Abdullah, however, declined the chief ministerial role, emphasizing the need to empower the younger generation.

Dr. Abdullah assured Dimple that restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, initiating the darbar move, addressing unemployment, and reinstating Article 370 would be priorities for



the new government. He acknowledged the need for substantial work to get the state back on track and promised to address demands including the implementation of the Instrument of Accession, reduction of electricity tariffs, and provision of free electricity for the first 200 units.

Dimple criticized the BJP's alleged strategy to introduce five nominated MLAs into the assembly, calling it a conspiracy to undermine the democratic process and concentrate power in the hands of the Lieutenant Governor. He expressed concerns over the disproportionate powers given to the LG compared to elected officials, claiming this approach keeps the people of Jammu and Kashmir marginalized.

Emphasizing the importance of a Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh-centric gov-

ernment, Dimple highlighted the recent high voter turnout as a clear rejection of the BJP's actions since August 5, 2019. He argued that the significant voting percentage indicated widespread discontent with the abrogation of Article 370 and the division of the state into union territories.

Dimple called on the Election Commission of India to disclose the financial expenditures of the BJP in the assembly elections, alleging that the party has funded proxy candidates and spent approximately five thousand crores to manipulate the electoral landscape. He reaffirmed his commitment to the mission for statehood, including the restoration of Article 370 and 35A, pledging that the fight for rights will continue vigorously.

Dogra Front, Shiv Sena protests rally against CAPD



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 6: Activists of Dogra Front and Shiv Sena under the leadership of its president Ashok Gupta took out a protest rally here against the CAPD for the hiked prices of the flowers and adulteration in the fast-moving staple of the festive season.

Especially in Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of Eid the prices are fixed by the government of the items which are used during the Muslim festival which is a welcome step

as people are safeguarded from inflation.

But on the contrary during the Navratri season and Karwachauth the most used thing are the flowers which are now currently being sold at a price of Rs 200 per kg, the protestors riled.

He further stated that the price fixed by the government of the Cheese is Rs 290 kg but in the market adulterated milk products are being sold to the consumers as they are fasting during Navratri and have to buy them. "Special flour (Kuttu Ka

Atta), which is the prime staple during the Navratri festival, is adulterated and full of sand particles. Gupta stated that people who are indulged in the black marketing and adulteration of goods should be punished and the metrology as well as JMC should increase checking of the food items so that the people can be saved from the adulteration of basic festive staples.

The director Food & Supply is not doing anything and merely acting as a mute spectator.

CEO visits counting centre at Ganderbal; inspects arrangements

Top News Report

GANDERBAL, Oct 6: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Pandurang K Pole, today visited counting centre at Degree College Ganderbal to assess preparations for the upcoming counting process for twin Assembly Constituencies of the district.

The CEO was briefed by District Election Officer (DEO) Ganderbal, Shyambir, about the extensive preparations being made at the counting centre. The CEO held detailed discussions with the officers regarding their specific roles and responsibilities. He inspected various critical aspects of counting arrangements including manpower management, law and order, security, welfare logistics, transport and parking management.

He also visited and inspected the facilities put in place for the counting agents, who will play a pivotal role in ensuring accountability during the process. Their comfort and access to the necessary resources have been prioritized, ensuring that they can carry out their duties without hindrance, he observed.

Pole emphasised on transparency, ensuring that both the media and the public stay informed

of the election results as they unfold. He further directed the concerned officers to ensure that all necessary measures are implemented in strict accordance with the guidelines of the ECI, for seamless counting with due accuracy, transparency, and adherence to protocols.

While elaborating on the preparations, the DEO informed that a dedicated Media Centre will be established at the venue under the supervision of the District Information Officer which will serve as a hub for real-time election updates, equipped with a public address system and a LCD screen to provide real time election results during the counting process.

Regarding security, Additional Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, provided a detailed briefing on the security measures in place to maintain law and order throughout the counting process. During his visit, Pole expressed satisfaction with the arrangements and emphasized the importance of seamless coordination and proactive measures to ensure that the counting process is conducted smoothly and efficiently.

RO 18-Ganderbal Constituency, Dy DEO and other officers were also present on the occasion.

Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums to go paperless: Sidha

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 6: A comprehensive hand on e-Office training program was conducted today at the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Mubarak Mandi, here.

"The program was aimed to equip employees of the department with the skills to effectively utilize digital tools and technologies, streamlining workflows and boosting productivity to enable efficient management of e-office services". The program was organized on the initiative of Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, in which thirty employees were trained regarding operations, usage and implementation of the e-Office. The e-Office implementation will enable the department to achieve the goal of e-Governance and better delivery of government services.

The training program covered various aspects of e-Office application. The session was conducted by e-Office trainer, Ieshan Sharma of Information Technology Department (JAKEGA). The trainer delivered training sessions to equip the participating employees with skill and knowledge to operate e-Office smoothly. He cleared difficulties on various levels to make the e-Office fully functional in the Directorate.

This will help the department to go paperless in official works and further improve its efficiency, consistency and effectiveness of government responses which will improve the quality of administration.

Toyam Hyderabad registered their first win in Legends League Cricket 2024



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 6: Toyam Hyderabad outclassed Southern Superstars in all departments in the rain affected match to register their first win in the season as they defeated Southern Superstars by 5 runs under DLS method at the Molana Azad Stadium in Jammu.

After losing the toss and put into bat first, George Worker and Chadwick Walton opened the innings for Toyam Hyderabad. The duo added 69 runs for the first wicket before Walton was dismissed for 40 from 29

balls. George Worker scored 28 from 26 balls. Shaun Marsh added 27 from 25 balls. Rikki Clarke made 25 from 29 balls. Towards the end, Bipul Sharma remained unbeaten on 10 from 3 balls.

For Southern Superstars, Pawan Negi (2/11) and Jeevan Mendis (2/26) took two wickets each. Chaturanga de Silva picked one wicket.

Chasing a target of 144 on the board, Martin Guptill and Shreevats Goswami opened the innings for Southern Superstars. They were down to 30/2 in 3.2 overs. Guptill made

14 from 11 balls and Goswami added 7 from 5 balls. Hamilton Masakadza scored 17 from 7 balls. Pawan Negi remained not out on 19 from 18 balls. Jesal Karia made 28 from 30 balls. Southern Superstars were 98/6 after 14 overs when the game was stopped due to rain. As the match couldn't be continued, Toyam Hyderabad were declared the winner under DLS rule.

For Toyam Hyderabad, Bipul Sharma (2/13) and Shivakant Shukla (2/17) took two wickets each. Nuwan Pradeep and Rikki Clarke bagged one wicket each in the innings.

JSS Jammu glorifies Inter-School Competition 'Animal Kingdom'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 6: Jammu Sanskriti School proudly hosted the Inter-School Competition - Animal Kingdom, a vibrant platform for young minds to showcase their talents in various fields. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from numerous renowned schools, fostering a spirit of healthy competition and intellectual growth among students.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Bhavya Jad, Registrar, Department of Ophthalmology, GMC Jammu, along with Guest of Honour Dr. Sandhya Bharadwaj, retired Associate Professor, graced the occasion, inspiring participants with their presence. The event featured esteemed adjudicators: Aruna Arora (Fauna Fashion Fiesta), Shashi Gupta (Jungle Jamboree), and Poonam Choudhary (Jungle

Genius). The competition kicked off with registration, followed by an opening ceremony that included the lighting of the lamp, a welcome note by Pre-Primary Wing Coordinator Ameet Kour Sharma, and performances by students.

In her inspiring address, Principal cum Vice-Chairperson Rohini Aima emphasized the importance of creativity and critical thinking in education. She stated, "Events like these not only showcase our students' talents but also help them develop essential skills that prepare them for future challenges. I am immensely proud of each participant and the collaborative spirit displayed by all schools."

Competition Results: Jungle Genius (Quiz Competition): 1st Prize: Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu, 1st Prize: Shemford School, 2nd Prize:

APS Jammu Cantt., 3rd Prize: Pushp Vatika, 3rd Prize: DBM Amarvillla, Fauna and Fashion Fiesta:, 1st Prize: Hazel Mohan, Shemford School, 2nd Prize: Suksham, Jammu Sanskriti School, Kathua, 3rd Prize: Jaijot, Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu, 3rd Prize: Parishrist, KC International School, Jungle Jamboree (Dance Competition):, 1st Prize: APS Kaluchak, 2nd Prize: Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu, 2nd Prize: Doon International School, 3rd Prize: R M Public School

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Harmeet Kour, Assistant Coordinator of the Pre-Primary Wing. The Inter-School Competition - Animal Kingdom was a resounding success, encouraging critical thinking and creativity while providing a memorable experience for all participants.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION KATHUA

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: - Extension of date of Submission of bids.

Reference: - This office e-NIT No: 05 of 08/2024-25 issued vide No-IDK/1941-81, Dt:- 14-08-2024 .

The below mentioned works of the above mentioned e-NIT published on 14-08-2024. The date of submission of bid is hereby extended due to poor response.

S. No.	E-NIT No.	Tender ID	Name of work
1	e-NIT No: 05 of 08/2024-25	2024_IFC_257199_1	Improvement of Kumaran Wali Khul at head site .
2	e-NIT No: 05 of 08/2024-25	2024_IFC_257199_2	Improvement of Bagh Wali Khul near village Jakhole at head.
3	e-NIT No: 05 of 08/2024-25	2024_IFC_257199_4	Improvement of Parthial Khul at spot near the land of Sh. Raj Kumar and Raman Kumar.

Date of Submission of Bid :- 14-08-2024 to 10-10-2024 (1800 Hrs)

Date of Opening of tender :- 11-10-2024 (1200 Hrs)

All other terms and conditions of e-NIT No. 05 of 08 / 2024-25 shall remain same.

No: IDK/2553-56
Dated: - 04-10-2024

DIP/J-5244/24

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division
Kathua

EDITORIAL

SAVING NATURAL RESOURCES

Jammu and Kashmir, with its stunning landscapes, lush valleys, and diverse ecosystems, is endowed with a wealth of natural resources. However, rapid urbanization, population growth, and climate change pose significant threats to these invaluable assets. Protecting and conserving Jammu and Kashmir's natural resources is not just a necessity but an urgent priority for ensuring the region's environmental sustainability and overall well-being.

Jammu and Kashmir is blessed with abundant freshwater resources, including rivers, lakes, and glaciers. Major rivers like the Jhelum, Chenab, and Ravi are crucial for drinking water, agriculture, and hydroelectric power. However, the region faces challenges such as water pollution, over-extraction, and glacier melting due to climate change.

Implement Sustainable Water Management: Promote efficient irrigation practices, such as drip irrigation, and adopt rainwater harvesting techniques to reduce dependency on freshwater sources. **Protect Water Bodies:** Prevent pollution by regulating industrial waste disposal and encouraging community-led initiatives for the cleaning and maintenance of rivers and lakes. **Monitor Glaciers and Snowfall:** Establish research programs to track glacier health and snowfall patterns, which are crucial for managing water availability in the future.

The forests of Jammu and Kashmir are home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including endangered species such as the Hangul deer and the Kashmir stag. These forests play a critical role in maintaining ecological balance, preventing soil erosion, and contributing to the region's climate regulation.

Promote Afforestation and Reforestation: Encourage tree planting campaigns and the restoration of degraded forest areas to enhance biodiversity and combat deforestation. **Protect Wildlife Habitats:** Establish and enforce wildlife protection laws to prevent poaching and habitat destruction. Support conservation programs and wildlife corridors to ensure the survival of endangered species. **Sustainable Forestry Practices:** Adopt eco-friendly logging practices and manage forest resources in a way that meets current needs without compromising future generations.

The fertile soil of Jammu and Kashmir supports agriculture, which is a major livelihood for many residents. However, soil erosion, land degradation, and improper agricultural practices threaten soil health and productivity.

Promote Soil Conservation Techniques: Implement practices such as terracing, contour plowing, and agroforestry to reduce soil erosion and improve soil fertility. **Encourage Organic Farming:** Reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides by promoting organic farming methods that enhance soil health and reduce environmental impact. **Implement Land Use Planning:** Develop and enforce land use policies that prevent over-cultivation and ensure sustainable land management practices.

Jammu and Kashmir's potential for renewable energy is significant, particularly in hydroelectric, solar, and wind energy. However, over-reliance on non-renewable sources and inefficient energy use are concerns that need addressing.

Invest in Renewable Energy Projects: Expand investments in hydroelectric, solar, and wind energy projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and decrease environmental impact. **Promote Energy Efficiency:** Encourage energy-efficient appliances and practices in homes, industries, and public buildings to reduce overall energy consumption. **Support Research and Development:** Invest in research for new technologies and innovations in energy conservation and renewable energy sources.

The success of natural resource conservation efforts largely depends on public awareness and community involvement. Educating residents about the importance of natural resource conservation and involving them in local environmental initiatives can drive positive change.

Organize workshops, seminars, and educational programs to raise awareness about the importance of conserving natural resources. Engage local communities in conservation projects, such as tree planting drives, waste management programs, and water conservation initiatives. Advocate for the development and enforcement of robust environmental policies and regulations to protect natural resources. Preserving Jammu and Kashmir's natural resources is essential for maintaining the region's ecological balance, ensuring the well-being of its residents, and safeguarding its unique biodiversity. By adopting sustainable practices, protecting ecosystems, and fostering community engagement, we can ensure that these precious resources are conserved for future generations. The collective efforts of individuals, communities, and policymakers are crucial in this endeavor, as each action taken today will contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future for Jammu and Kashmir.

Possibility of a Khichdi Sarkar in J&K

By: Omkar Dattatray

The votes are stacked in the EVM's and in a few days and to be specific on 8th of October 2024 that is during the annual festival of Navratra, the outcome of the crucial and historical assembly elections will be out. It is on the same date which will be the momentous occasion politically that it will be almost clear which combination of parties or which alliance will be in a position to form a coalition government. There has been a pre-poll alliance between the NC and Congress and the two parties had fought polls jointly. However there is every scope and possibility of a post poll alliance as well to muster the majority support to form a coalition government. As far a political scenario of the Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, at the end of the counting of votes, no single party will get the majority to form a government at its own. Thus this time there is utmost need and necessity of coalition politics as coalition era has come to stay in India and J&K is no exception to this reality and thus all indications are there that at the end of the day a coalition government is hundred percent possibility. In the murkier field of politics very thing is a possibility. There are strange bedfellows in politics and as they say everything is fair in politics, love and war and thus there can emerge any equation, permutation and combination in J&K politics. In politics it is not uncommon to see that snakes marry rates and bulls chase lizard's. Thus anything can happen in politics and because of this politicians are different genre from statesmen. There are speculation a buzz in political circles that something is going on between two parties of NC and BJP which though are north pole and south pole, but in politics the opposite poles can meet. Even there are gossips in public

circles that something is being cooked behind curtains between the BJP and NC. Some opine that back channels diplomacy and talks are on between NC and BJP and at the end of political churning a coalition arrangement between the NC and BJP may be a possibility. When BJP and PDP has formed a coalition government in 2015, there seems no wrong in coming closer of BJP and NC and the two parties which were opposite to each other to cobble a coalition government. It follows that there is possibility of a post poll alliance between the NC and BJP to form a coalition government. In fact J&K government formation may come down to post-poll jockeying. Jammu is where BJP is formidable while Congress -NC alliance has a mere even geographic footprint. Independents are the wild card in this election, which may not throw up a clear winner on counting day. While the BJP has contested independently, the Congress has a pre-poll alliance with the NC, making it a formidable force. Regional parties, including NC and PDP, along with other new political outfits, were largely invisible in Jammu's electoral scene. Since 2014, the BJP has significantly increased its presence in Jammu, a stark contrast to its single-seat win in 2002. In 2014 elections, the party won 19 out of 24 assembly seats. Even in recent Lok Sabha polls, the BJP reinforced its dominance in Jammu by winning both seats of the Jammu and Udhampur constituencies. Analysts believe that BJP's success in Hindu-majority region of Jammu can be attributed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's influence and the party's pro-Hindu policies and stance. It may continue in 2024 JK polls and the BJP will emerge a larger party in Jammu region giving it the handle to attract the independents which are in large numbers in this election and the BJP may attract its

bête noire the NC to its side and the two parties will emerge larger parties in these elections and may form a coalition government which will care for the people and try to address the main issues and concerns of the people of the UT. In fact since BJP could gain an advantage from the 2022 delimitation exercise, which raised the number of assembly seats in J&K from 83 to 90. Of the seven additional seats, six were allocated to Jammu and only one to Kashmir. The voting rights granted this year by the government to 30,000 families of West Pakistan Refugees-WPR and those displaced by the 1965 Indo-Pak war in Jammu region -primarily from the Hindu community as well the vote to Valmiki community and Gurkhas will also benefit BJP as all these groups of people have voted for the saffron party. The introduction of nine reserved seats in J&K for Scheduled Tribes, coupled with new political parties seen as proxies of the BJP and the independent candidates, could definitely enhance the BJP's chances of forming a coalition government similar to their success in 2014. Based on the election mood and past trends in J&K, the outcome according to analysts could be either be a hung assembly or a coalition government. Traditionally NC is expected to get more seats in Kashmir region as against the BJP getting more seats in Jammu region. At the end no party will get a majority of seats on its own and therefore coalition is the foregone conclusion. As the electoral outcomes will emerge at the end of counting of votes, it seems that NC and BJP may emerge the two larger parties from Kashmir and Jammu regions respectively and in that case a post-poll alliance may be entered between the NC and BJP and they may form a coalition or alliance government in accordance with the fractured mandate of J&K people.

Meanwhile the stage is set for the nomination of 5MLA's from KP community and POJK refugees and the LG will nominate these MLA's before the government formation. Thus the nominated five MLA's will support BJP coalition in government formation. The Congress, NC and PDP opposes the move to nominate MLA's before government formation as it will tilt the balance of power in favor of BJP. Political analysts opine that if NC will align with BJP, it will benefit the gullible people of the mountainous UT as the Modi government will give generous funds and allocations to Jammu and Kashmir and it will increase the tempo of development in J&K and it will definitely benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir. There are speculations going in the public that some informal talks are going between the regional mainstream party NC and the national party BJP about the possibility of alliance between the two parties to stitch a coalition arrangement in Jammu and Kashmir to give the alienated people a responsive and transparent government which will care for the interests of the people. NC was an alliance partner in Vajpayee's NDA government and so there is no harm in NC and BJP entering into post-poll alliance to form a coalition government. Let the NC and BJP experiment a coalition government so as to keep away the unwanted governor Raj, which is in no way in the interest of people as people's democratic government is the best alternative and let the political parties here learn the art of coalition government and give one to the UT so that J&K is saved from again falling in the ditch of governor's or LG's rule.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist)

Request for Fair and Transparent nomination of Five Members among the common Kashmiri Pandits & others for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly



By: Kundan Kashmiri

At this crucial moment following the conclusion of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, the entire population of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the displaced and marginalized communities, looks forward with great anticipation to the nomination of the remaining five members of the newly formed Assembly, as per constitutional provisions. The significance of these nominations cannot be overstated, especially considering that they are expected to include two representatives from the Kashmiri Pandit (KP) community (one male and one female), one from the PoJK (Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir) community, and two women from other deserving sections of society.

Sir, this is a historic opportunity to ensure that the voices of these communities, long overlooked and underrepresented, are finally heard in the democratic process. The upcoming nominations offer a chance to reinforce faith in the system and set a benchmark for fairness, transparency, and accountability.

Sir, the Kashmiri Pandit community, which has borne the brunt of displacement and exile for over three decades, eagerly hopes that

these nominations will reflect the true aspirations of the people.

Sir, despite their numerical minority, Kashmiri Pandits possess a rich and deep reservoir of talent, experience, and patriotism. The community has produced countless individuals who have tirelessly contributed to the nation's welfare, its unity, and its sovereignty, often at great personal cost. It is these deserving individuals, selfless activists, scholars, and professionals, who must be considered for nomination, free from any political influence or affiliations with parties such as Congress, PDP, NC, BJP, or others.

Sir, over the years, many political leaders and parties have claimed to represent the KP community, but in truth, it is the grassroots activists and common people of this community who have carried the burden of preserving the cultural, social, and nationalistic identity of Kashmiri Pandits. These individuals, who have been consistently overlooked in favor of politically connected personalities, deserve a fair chance to be nominated and represent their community in the Assembly. This is the collective desire of the entire KP community: that the nominations come from among these sincere, apolitical individuals, whose primary allegiance is to the nation and its people, rather than to any political party or ideology.

Sir, similarly, the nomination from the PoJK community should reflect the genuine aspirations of the displaced people from this region, many of whom have long been marginalized and politically neglected. It is essential that the nominee from this group represents the common masses, someone who is grounded in their struggles and challenges, rather than a politically aligned candidate.

Furthermore sir, the two remain-

ing seats for women's representation should be allocated with fairness and inclusivity in mind. In particular, the Sikh community, which has faced its own set of challenges, should be duly considered. Moreover, we strongly urge you sir, to include a second female representative from the Kashmiri Pandit community. The women of the KP community, who have faced immense hardship during the years of displacement and exile, have been historically underrepresented.

Sir, their contribution to the cultural preservation, education, and social welfare of our community cannot be ignored, and their representation in the Assembly is not only a matter of fairness but a critical step in addressing their long-standing grievances and ensuring their voice is heard in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

Honourable Lieutenant Governor Sir, your administration has been recognized for its impartiality, integrity, and commitment to good governance. It is with great faith in your leadership that we make this heartfelt request. We implore you to ensure that the nomination process for these five critical Assembly seats is conducted with complete fairness, free from the pressures of political lobbies, and with an eye toward merit and genuine representation. The Kashmiri Pandit community, as well as the other deserving groups, has endured years of struggle, but their dedication to the nation has never wavered. It is time that this dedication is acknowledged by nominating individuals who have truly served their communities and the country, without being swayed by political interests.

Sir, the nomination process is a test of the government's commitment to inclusivity and fairness. By ensuring that these nominations

are not merely political favors, but a reflection of the true aspirations of the people, your office will reinforce the faith of the minority and displaced communities in the democratic process. We also trust that the Home Ministry under the able leadership of Honorable Sh. Amit Shah Ji will safeguard the interests of these communities and ensure that their rightful place in the Assembly is secured through fair nominations.

Sir, this moment calls for a bold and just decision that will stand as a testament to your administration's dedication to the welfare and progress of all sections of society, particularly the displaced and marginalized communities like the Kashmiri Pandits and PoJK refugees. The Kashmiri Pandit community, which has faced decades of exclusion, now looks up to your office with great hope. We are confident that you will rise to the occasion and make nominations that reflect the will of the people and the need for genuine representation, thereby strengthening the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sir, with profound respect and confidence in your leadership, we look forward to a decision that upholds justice, fairness, and the principles of true democracy.

Thank you sir, for your continued service to the nation and to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

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Sewa should not be viewed with discrimination, but should be done with selflessness: Mata Sudiksha



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 6: In this world, there are various types of people who differ in language, attire, food, caste, religion, and culture. Despite all these differences, one thing remains common among all of us: we are all human beings. No matter our skin color, attire, country, or food, the same blood flows through our veins, and we all breathe the same air. We are all children of the same Supreme Being. Many saints have expressed this idea across different times and places in their own languages and

styles, conveying the message "the entire world is one family." For nearly 95 years, the Sant Nirankari Mission has been spreading this message, not only through words but by organizing various spiritual congregations and Samagams, serving as a living example of this philosophy. This year as well, millions of devotees from across the world will gather for the 77th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam, which will take place from 16th to 18th November 2024 at the Sant Nirankari Spiritual Ground in Samalkha, Haryana. These devotees will have the blessed opportunity to

seek the divine blessings of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj and Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji while also striving to purify their minds through the teachings of the Samagam. The sewa of preparing the grounds for this sacred Samagam was formally initiated today, on 6th October, by Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj and Nirankari Rajpita Ji, as is done every year. Members of the Mission's executive committee, central Sewadal officers, and thousands of other devotees were present on the occasion. It is noteworthy that this vast Samagam

site, spread over 600 acres, accommodates millions of saints, providing arrangements for lodging, food, health-care, and transportation, among other services. Devotees from different places come together and selflessly offer their services for an entire month to prepare the site. Saints and Sewadars from all walks of life, along with their families, will gather at this holy Samagam to experience the divine unity. This year's theme is "Vistara asmeem ki aur." During the grand congregation following the initiation of Samagam sewa, Satguru Mata Ji

addressed the gathering, emphasizing that sewa should not be viewed through the lens of discrimination, but should always be done selflessly and without expectations. Sewa becomes a blessing only when it is free from conditions or limitations. It should not be restricted to the duration of the Samagam or end with the Samagam; rather, the spirit of sewa should continue until the next Samagam and beyond. Sewa is a continuous process and should always be done with a spirit of devotion, regardless of one's physical abilities, as it is the intention and spirit of sewa that matter most.

The Nirankari Sant Samagam, eagerly awaited by every devotee throughout the year, is a divine celebration that embodies infinite love, infinite compassion, infinite faith, and infinite surrender, all rooted in the knowledge of the Infinite Supreme. Every lover of humanity and religion is warmly welcomed to this celebration.

Chandel accuses China and Pakistan of dividing India along religious lines

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 6: In a press conference today, Hinduist BJP leader Raju Chandel alleged that China and Pakistan are conspiring to incite conflict between Hindus and Muslims in India. He claimed that agents from these neighboring countries are exploiting religious sentiments to create divisions, warning that they aim to provoke internal strife reminiscent of historical partitions. Chandel emphasized that the Indian Constitution protects individual faiths and called on both Hindu and Muslim communities to recognize and resist these external influences. He criticized certain youth within both religions, labeling them



as agents acting under the auspices of China and Pakistan, who make incendiary statements to incite riots.

Appealing to Muslim religious leaders, Chandel urged a collective understanding of these foreign conspiracies and emphasized the need for peace. He highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts toward Muslim welfare, including education and employ-

ment initiatives, arguing that such progress is viewed unfavorably by Pakistan and China.

He condemned individuals like Zakir Naik for allegedly inciting religious tensions and called on Muslims to pursue higher education and adhere to constitutional values. Chandel reiterated that India, as a growing superpower, seeks peace and stability rather than conflict.

Chandel concluded by urging all communities to prioritize national unity and development over divisive rhetoric, emphasizing that India belongs to everyone, regardless of religion or caste. He cautioned against political manipulation and called for a focus on the country's progress.

IAF's might on display at Air Show, lakhs congregate at Marina beach



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 6: The two day refresher course on "Land Revenue Laws, Land Acquisition: Land Reforms and Amendments in Land Acquisition Laws, Procedural Fairness and Natural Justice, Determination of Compensation and Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Affected Persons, Adjudication of Offences & Penalties under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013" organized by the J&K Judicial Academy for District and Session Judges of Jammu province concluded here today.

The event was organized under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Justice Tashi Rabstan, guidance of Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur, Jammu.

On the first day, the sessions were conducted by Sanjay Parihar, member J&K Special Tribunal, who explained about the Land Revenue Laws and the recent amendments to Land Acquisition Laws. He said that laws are at the heart of the legal framework that governs land disputes, acquisitions, and compensation.

He delved into the critical principles of procedural fairness and natural justice in the context of land acquisition. He added that these principles are essential to ensure that the process of land acquisition is not only legally compliant but also morally and ethically sound. He further discussed the determination of compensation and the rehabilitation and resettlement of affected

persons, a key element of the 2013 Act.

On the second day, the sessions were conducted by R.S. Thakur, Senior Advocate, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who provided insights into how courts can ensure that compensation is just, transparent, and compliant with the legal standards. The learned Resource Person also addressed the adjudication of offenses and penalties under the Act, ensuring that there is accountability and that the rights of affected persons are upheld.

During the valedictory function, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Supreme Court of India, delivered the valedictory address and shared his experience as the judge of Supreme Court of India. He underscored that the laws governing land ownership, acquisition, and compensation such as the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act, 2013 are crucial in ensuring that while the state fulfills its developmental goals, the rights of landowners and affected persons are safeguarded.

Justice Kotiswar Singh appreciated the role of Judges in the judiciary saying that as custodians of justice, we must ensure that development and progress do not come at the cost of displacement, disenfranchisement, or the deprivation of fundamental rights.

In his special address, Chief Justice, Justice Tashi Rabstan, reiterated that Land revenue laws and procedures have historically played a critical role in shaping both the economic and social landscapes of regions, especially those like Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, where the relationship between land, resources, and people is deeply intertwined. He stated that the Land

Revenue Act in Jammu & Kashmir, historically, has functioned as a bulwark protecting the local populace from external pressures.

The Chief Justice underscored that in the aftermath of the abrogation, the judiciary has to play an increasingly active role in ensuring that the changes brought by the new laws do not disproportionately affect the vulnerable sections of society—particularly farmers, rural communities, and tribal groups. He advised that as judges and officers of the court, our primary responsibility is to ensure that the rights of these communities are not overridden by large-scale developmental projects or national interests, without due consideration of their traditional rights and unique circumstances.

While delivering the welcome address, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, discussed the complexities and challenges associated with Land Revenue laws, particularly in balancing public welfare with the fundamental rights of individuals. He underlined that this program was not only an opportunity to enhance our knowledge but also to ensure that the judgments we deliver are informed, just, and rooted in the principles of natural justice.

Sonia Gupta, Director J&K Judicial Academy, conducted the proceedings for the two day Refresher Course and presented the vote of thanks.

All the sessions remained very interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the worthy resource person.

Movement Kalki submits memorandum to D.C. Jammu on bovine transportation regulations

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 6: Movement Kalki has submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of Jammu, advocating for stricter regulations on the transportation of bovines amid rising smuggling incidents. The organization highlighted several loopholes in the current process that are being exploited by habitual offenders. Key proposals in the memorandum include revamping the permission process to require a photograph of the bovines, a specified route, a defined period of validity, and a character certificate from the local police. Additionally, they called for a digital tracking system featuring unique tags that display the transporter's credentials, permitted route, and transportation period for easier verifica-

tion by law enforcement. Movement Kalki also demanded stricter penalties for repeat offenders, suggesting that habitual violators should be denied character certificates and face harsher consequences to deter unlawful activities. The Deputy Commissioner assured that these recommendations would be seriously considered and has tasked Additional DC (Law and Order) Anusya Jamwal with collaborating with relevant authorities to implement necessary changes. Prominent members of Movement Kalki, including Pritam Sharma and Advocate Sureshwar Kohli, emphasized the need for immediate action to curb bovine smuggling and expressed hope that their suggestions would lead to improved enforcement of existing laws.

Army Conducts Paddar Cricket Premier League At Gulabgarh Kishtwar



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Oct 6: In its continued efforts to promote community welfare and encourage sportsmanship, the Indian Army, successfully organized the Paddar Cricket Premier League at Gulabgarh which concluded on 04 Oct 2024. The tournament was inaugurated on 21 Sep 24 and witnessed participation from 32 teams from the Paddar region. After 30 exciting league matches, the final match was held on 04 Oct 2024 between Wisdan Vs CG Lions team in which CG Lions emerged victorious. The team was awarded a championship trophy and a cash prize of Rs

10,000/-. The runner-up team was awarded a trophy and a cash prize of Rs 5,000/-. Special recognition was given to individuals who were "man of the series" and the "man of the match" and were rewarded with cash prize and trophies. The two commentators were also felicitated with cash prizes of Rs 2,000/- each. The tournament aimed to provide a platform for local youth to showcase their cricketing talents while fostering a spirit of healthy competition and community engagement. The event was highly appreciated and well received by the locals which strengthened bonhomie and camaraderie between locals and Indian

Shabnum Khan condemns hate speech against Prophet Muhammad

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: JKPYC Leader Shabnum Khan has issued a strong condemnation of the hate speech made by Narsimhanand against Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H.). In a statement issued to the media today, Shabnum Khan emphasized that such inflammatory rhetoric is not only disrespectful but is also a deliberate attempt to disturb the peace and harmony of our nation.

Shabnum Khan stated, "Narsimhanand's continued attacks against Muslims and their revered prophet are intolerable. His speeches sow division and incite hatred,



which poses a grave threat to communal harmony in India. It is imperative that he faces severe consequences for his actions, and I call for a life sentence as a necessary measure to safeguard our

society." Shabnum Khan urged all citizens to remain vigilant against hate speech and to work together in fostering an environment of respect and understanding among all communities.

Speeding tipper claims life of motorcyclist in Bandipora

Top News Report

BANDIPORA, Oct 6: In a tragic accident, a motorcyclist was killed on Sunday afternoon after being hit by a speeding tipper in the S K Bala village of North Kashmir's Bandipora district.

The deceased has been identified as Tasir Ahmad Rather, son of Ghulam Mohideen Rather, a resident of the same village.

According to local authorities, the collision involved a motorcycle, registration number JK15B 4018, and a tipper truck, registration number JK01K 7865. The

impact of the accident left Tasir Ahmad critically injured. He was immediately rushed to the CHC Sumbal for medical treatment, but despite efforts by the medical staff, he was pronounced dead on arrival.

An eyewitness at the scene shared, "The tipper was moving at an incredibly high speed. The collision was so severe that the motorcyclist had no chance to avoid it."

Local police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident.

A police spokesperson

said, "We are working to locate and apprehend the driver of the tipper. A full investigation is underway to determine the exact circumstances that led to this tragic accident."

Residents of the area have expressed their concern over the increasing number of speeding vehicles, particularly heavy trucks, on local roads. One local resident remarked, "The reckless driving of these heavy vehicles is becoming a serious danger. The authorities must act to prevent more lives from being lost."

Army Conduct Medical Patrol For Gujjar & Bakkarwal at Sial Sui Rajouri

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Oct 6: The Army extended healthcare services to the remote parts of Rajouri district by mobile medical patrols in the village of Narota, Sial Sui. The locals of this village who are often cut off from mainstream healthcare facilities due to their geographic isolation and challenging terrain, benefited immensely from this initiative which contributed to the overall well-being of the locals who often suffer due to disparities in healthcare leading to higher morbidity and mortality rates. The mobile medical patrols, equipped with essential medical supplies and services, reached these areas to provide healthcare with compassion. The primary objective was to provide on-the-spot medical care, including basic health check-ups, treatment of common ailments and



distribution of necessary medications. The medical patrol also focused on preventive healthcare by offering immunizations and disseminating information about hygiene, nutrition and disease prevention. The Mobile Medical Patrol provided special attention to vulnerable sections of the population, such as children and the elderly. By ensuring that these groups receive timely and appropriate medical attention, the Indian Army helped to mitigate the risk of complications that could arise from untreated health issues. The response from the

local population has been overwhelmingly positive. Villagers expressed deep gratitude for Army's initiative, which brings much-needed medical services directly to their doorsteps. Beyond the immediate medical benefits, the mobile medical patrols play a crucial role in building and strengthening the relationship between the Indian Army and the local communities and fosters trust and goodwill. The proactive approach in medical assistance helps to prevent onset of diseases and also reduces the healthcare burden on the individuals and the system. It hence reassures the residents of the Indian Army commitment to their welfare and security, thereby enhancing the sense of safety and community cohesion. A total number of 38 villagers (14 Male, 18 Female and 06 Children) were benefitted by the mobile medical patrol.

Shehnaaz Gill recalls relationship with Siddharth Shukla: 'If someone is so good-looking, it's natural to feel possessive'

Shehnaaz Gill and Siddharth Shukla captured hearts on Bigg Boss 13 with their adorable bond, gaining a dedicated fan base for the love and admiration they shared. Despite their unique connection, the couple never officially confirmed their relationship. Tragically, their story came to an end with Siddharth's passing in 2021 due to a heart attack.

In a recent conversation with Farah Khan, Shehnaaz opened up about her relationship with Siddharth and explained her possessive nature. Speaking on Farah's YouTube channel, she stated, "I don't care about looks," but admitted she is a jealous girlfriend, saying, "I am extremely possessive." She



recalled her feelings for Siddharth, justifying her behavior by saying, "I was possessive because he was handsome. If someone is so good-looking, it's natural to feel insecure and possessive."

When discussing the type of man she hopes to marry, Shehnaaz expressed confidence that her future partner will be a wonderful match for her. "I am very loyal. I envision my life with the same man forever," she said,

emphasising that fate ultimately plays a role in relationships but that she remains committed.

Listing her requirements, Shehnaaz shared, "I want an equal, both financially and professionally. I would struggle if he had a significantly higher status than me. I'm the kind of person who believes in splitting expenses equally when we go out. I'm an Alpha woman; I don't like it when a man pays for me." She also noted, "I do love gifts and pampering, but I believe in giving gifts too."

Shehnaaz Gill made her Bollywood debut in Salman Khan's Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan and was also seen in Bhumi Pednekar's Thank You For Coming.

Alia Bhatt, Sharvari's spy drama Alpha to be released on Christmas 2025



The makers of Alia Bhatt and Sharvari-starrer Alpha have locked Christmas 2025 release date for the film. The announcement was made on the official social media handles of Yash Raj Films.

"On Christmas 2025, #ALPHA will rise! Get ready for an action-packed holiday... 25th Dec, 2025. @aliaabhatt | @sharvari @shivrawail | #YRFSpyniverse," the post read. The makers also shared the film's new poster with

release date details on it. Recently, both Alia and Sharvari visited Kashmir to shoot for the film.

Taking to Instagram, Alia shared a scenic photograph from the Kashmir shoot. The post was accompanied by the caption, 'Love, Alpha' and a collision emoji, further enhanced by the movie's theme music.

In a recent Instagram update, Sharvari shared her enthusiasm for the project by posting a picture with director Shiv Rawail, expressing her excitement about the journey ahead.

Her caption read, "It doesn't get bigger than this! Super stoked to start my #Alpha journey today! Trust me... I have manifested this moment super prepped but can feel the butterflies in my tummy... Thank you Adi sir for your faith & @shivrawail for your belief in me! Letssss gooooo!" The film, directed by Shiv Rawail, marks a significant addition to Yash Raj Films' esteemed spy universe.

Sheezan Khan talks about his experience of working with the CID team

Sheezan Khan recently shot for Pocket FM's Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh with the famous squad of CID. He shared, "I got a call from the production house, and they mentioned that the main hero in the show was a negative character. As I was listening to the story, they mentioned the CID team would also be involved. That immediately caught my attention! Before I listened to the entire story, I said yes. I've always been a fan of CID, so this opportunity was too exciting to miss."

He added, "It was an incredible experience! When I arrived on sets, I had the chance to meet the legendary ACP Pradyuman and Daya. I shook their hands, and honestly, it felt like a dream come true. I told them it was an honour to work with their iconic



characters, something I had only dreamed of. Though it was a short role, it was very fulfilling for me."

Switching between a short film and working with these seasoned TV actors must be interesting and Sheezan loves playing varied roles. "I

love playing new and different characters, and that's what drew me to this project.

For this role, I played a negative character, which I thoroughly enjoyed. As I've always said, there are no small characters, only small actors."

Kourtney Kardashian faces backlash over Halloween decor at home

Kourtney Kardashian was slammed for the Halloween decorations at her house by fans on the internet. Recently, the reality TV star posted various pictures of the enormous decorations at her house on the occasion of Halloween month. Among those snaps, a particular decoration of two skeleton balloons placed in a sexual position resulted in fans lashing out at Kourtney.

Kourtney criticised for her Halloween decor

One of the Halloween props in pictures shared by Kourtney on Instagram included two inflated skeleton balloons in a sexual position with one balloon placed over another. This particular picture resulted in various shocked and disgusted reactions from her fans with some pointing out that she has children at home. She is a mother to four children as she



welcomed baby Rocky with her husband Travis Baker.

Other images in the post included the Lemme owner pushing her youngest kid's stroller at different locations. In the first image, she is smiling down at her baby while, backstage at one of Baker's concerts, in front of the sign that read 30 Rock-125. Another image of the mother-son duo showed the two at The Franklin Theatre where she covered her son's face with a heart emoji.

A picture showcased Kourtney trying our archery as she held a bow and arrow and aimed towards the target board while another picture which showcased the decor including a staircase adorned with pumpkins on the side. The rest of the images were mostly random snapshots from here and there. She captioned the post, "Hello

October".

Netizens denounce Kourtney on the internet

Fans were quick to react to the image of the inflated skeletons for Halloween decor at home with four kids. Fans slammed the Keeping Up With The Kardashians star as one user commented on her post, "Shes such a weird do ever since she got with Baker. Dark soul... More conservative when she was with Scott!" A second user wrote, "As a mother of four kids I find it disgusting you would do that to those inflatables." A third user commented, "The skeletons seriously? Any respect for your kids?"

Another user wrote, "Do you even care about your minor children seeing your disgusting skeleton display? Too many diddy parties and now you think this is normal," while another wrote, "That Skeleton position? Really?"

Saiyami Kher: I'd rather start a trend, than follow one

Known for her unique looks and impeccable fashion sense, actor Saiyami Kher shares that her fashion mantra is all about comfort. "I have always believed in keeping things comfortable. What has evolved in my style is probably the way I have learnt to do make up and taken interest in it. But with my clothes, I have always believed in keeping it classic and comfortable. As long you are comfortable inside, you look confident outside," she says.

Not one to be restrained by trends, Saiyami adds, "I have never been a fashion conscious person who follows trends. I am somebody who would rather start a trend, than follow one. I believe in prioritising comfort and that resonates in the kind of fashion choices I make." The actor reveals that her fashion idol is veteran actor Waheeda Rehman and calls her a "classic and timeless beauty".

Saiyami reveals that she grew up on sports and being a little tomboyish, so the vanity of the film industry hit her slowly. "I used to be in my shorts and tank tops most of the times. But

our profession is such that we can't go on a red carpet in shorts. You need to wear a dress and that is a process that now I enjoy doing," she asserts.

While her unique features make her stand out, Saiyami was initially made to feel the need to change them: "When I was starting off, there were people who liked my uniqueness but there were also some who didn't. I was told to get straight hair, a lip job and other jobs done to fit the factory mould. But fortunately for me, there were a lot of people who liked my uniqueness, and I ended up working with more of those people." She adds that even the people who have been styling her through her career, have taken into account her personality and 'non-quintessential actor looks' while making her be her most presentable. The actor insists that while the support of people around her has been instrumental in her growth, her self-confidence has been her best accessory: "I have always been very secure in my skin, so I never battled the doubts over my looks. I am blessed to have got the



looks I did."

The 32-year-old made her acting debut in 2016 with filmmaker Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's Mirzya. She calls it "a dream launch for any actor" as it had Mehra returning after Bhaag Milkha Bhaag (2011), writer Gulzar coming back after 18 years and actor Anil Kapoor's son Harsh Vardhan Kapoor making his debut opposite her. "But unfortunately, it didn't do well

at the box office. So, I wasn't getting any work after that," she says, adding that it was filmmaker Anurag Kashyap's Choked that changed things for her.

The actor says, "The perception about me in the industry changed after Choked. Up until then, I wasn't taken seriously as an actor, but after the film, the kind of offers that came to me were very performance-oriented, be it Parched,

Ghoomer or 8AM Metro." At the mention of Ghoomer, she insists it was the "best experience of my life". She adds, "I am a complete sports fanatic, and I was a sportsperson before I started acting. So, to play a para cricketer on screen was my dream role. Credit to (filmmaker) R Balki sir as big producers and directors like to back big actors, but he felt I could pull the role more authentically and he chose me. Physically and emotionally, it was the most demanding film I have done. It has been a great step up for me. When I started my career, I wanted to be recognised as an actor, and I feel glad that I have got that recognition from directors like Anurag Kashyap and R Balki."

So, what's next on her radar? "The truth is that I haven't been offered any commercial film where I can sing and dance. I do hope filmmakers see me in the commercial light as well as I would love to do those parts. I have grown up on such films where heroines are dancing in chiffon sarees in Switzerland. I would love to do an out-and-out commercial film," she ends.

Kangana Ranaut to play triple role in Tanu Weds Manu 3: Report



After playing a double role in Tanu Weds Manu Returns, Kangana Ranaut might play a triple role in the third film of the franchise. If reports are to be believed, then director Aanand L Rai's Tanu Weds Manu 3 would have a triple role for

Ranaut.

According to a report in Pinkvilla, Ranaut has been offered a triple role for the film opposite R Madhavan. A source close to the project told the portal, "Kangana is excited to explore the first triple role of her career, and is awaiting a

complete narration from Aanand L Rai. The film will give her the opportunity to dive into new shades of a performer."

This comes as a surprise, especially since Kangana Ranaut had earlier said that she was considering bidding goodbye to her Bollywood career if her political career took off.

The same source also spoke about the film and added, "It's a sequel in a true sense and the makers have come across a story that organically leads itself to a trilogy. Staying true to the world of part one and two, the third instalment, too, will be a blend of humour with romance and drama. The basic idea is locked by Aanand L Rai and the intent is to take the film on floors in the second half of 2025."

Aanand L Rai is currently busy with Tere Ishk Mein, where he is reuniting with Dhanush. Kangana, meanwhile, is awaiting a censor board certificate for her upcoming film Emergency, where she will play former prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Removal of women elected representative can't be treated lightly: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (Agencies): Removal of an elected public representative should not be treated lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas, the Supreme Court has said as it set aside an order for removal of a woman sarpanch in a Maharashtra village.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan termed the matter as a classic case where the residents of the village could not reconcile with the fact that a woman was elected to the office of the sarpanch.

The top court observed that it was a case where villagers were unable to come to terms with the reality that a female sarpanch would make decisions on their behalf and that they would have to abide by her directions.

"This scenario gets further exacerbated when we as a country are attempting to realise the progressive goal of gender parity and women empowerment across all spheres, including public offices and most importantly adequate women representative in elected bodies, such instances at the grass-root level cast a heavy shadow on any headway that we may have achieved," the bench observed in its September 27 order.

Underscoring that it must be acknowledged that these women, who succeed in occupying such public offices, do so only after significant struggle, the bench said, "All that we would like to reiterate is that the matter of removal of an elected



public representative should not be treated so lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas".

The bench was dealing with a plea of Manish Ravindra Panpatil, an elected sarpanch of gram panchayat, Vichkheda situated in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. She was ordered to be removed from her post after a complaint by fellow villagers that she was allegedly residing with her mother-in-law in a house constructed on government land.

The allegation was denied by Panpatil, who claimed she does not reside in that particular dwelling, and that she lives separately with her husband and children in a rented accommodation.

However, without appropriately verifying these facts and on the basis of "bald statements", the Collector concerned passed an order disqualifying her from continuing as sarpanch.

"This order was thereafter confirmed by the divisional commissioner. Subsequently, the

high court vide the impugned order, dismissed the appellant's writ petition against the commissioner's order on a technical ground, thus putting a seal of approval on her removal from office," the bench noted.

The bench noted that the villagers grasped at straws in their bid to evict Panpatil from her position and their cause was perhaps aided by the mechanical and summary orders passed by government authorities at various levels.

"These orders were passed in a lackadaisical manner, without making any effort towards conducting a fact-finding exercise, so as to confirm whether the allegations levied by the private respondents were sufficiently made out. There is nothing on record to suggest that any objection of the appellant's family having encroached upon government land was ever raised when she filed her nomination papers," the bench said.

While noting that the vagaries of the present factual matrix is far from unique and is unfor-

tunately somewhat of a norm, the bench said there is no doubt that the private respondents (villagers) may have operated in a discriminatory manner.

It said what is more worrying is the casual approach adopted by government authorities in summarily removing an elected representative.

"This is all the more concerning when the representative in question is a woman and elected in the reservation quota, thereby indicating a systemic pattern of prejudicial treatment, permeating through all levels of administrative functioning," it said.

The top court said having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case at hand, it sees no credible and convincing material on record to substantiate the allegations of encroachment of government land by Panpatil before or post her election as sarpanch.

"In this vein, the authorities concerned need to sensitise themselves and work towards creating a more congenial atmosphere where women, such as the appellant, can prove their worth by rendering their services as sarpanch of the gram panchayat," said the bench, adding that her removal from the office of sarpanch, is highly disproportionate.

It set aside the Bombay High Court order of August 3, 2023 and allowed Panpatil to continue and perform the duties of sarpanch of the gram panchayat till the completion of her tenure.

India To Become Next Chip Manufacturing Hub: Ashwini Vaishnaw



BENGALURU, Oct 6 (Agencies): Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that India is moving towards becoming the next semiconductor hub for the world as big investment is happening in this sector in the country.

Minister Vaishnaw referred to a recent roundtable in New York between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top tech CEOs and said that in the discussion three top executives had said they had not seen this kind of enthusiasm for any country in the last 35 to 40 years.

The Central government has cleared five semiconductor manufacturing proposals,

with a total combined investment nearing ₹ 1.52 lakh crore.

The Union Minister further said Micron Technology will roll out the first made-in-India chips by early 2025. The construction work of the CG power semiconductor facility is going on. And in Tata's ATMP facility in Assam, construction work is going on very well, he said.

Earlier, the Minister said the growth of the semiconductor industry in India will further boost PM Modi's vision. Semiconductor is a foundational industry. Chips manufactured in the industry are used in medical instruments, mobile phones, laptops, cars, trucks, trains, tele-

visions and practically every device.

All the initiatives taken so far, whether it is the Digital India Mission or the telecom mission, have brought technology into the hands of common citizens.

According to the reports, India's semiconductor-related market will reach 64 billion dollars in 2026, nearly triple the size in 2019. Towards achieving this goal, the 'Semicon India' initiative allows financial support for front-end fabrication units, sensors, display manufacturing, display fabs, semiconductor packaging and compound semiconductors.

As per the experts, "by expanding production capabilities, the country is poised to become a major player in the semiconductor sector.

National initiatives, such as the Semicon India Programme and the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), are focused on capturing a significant share of the global market, driving innovation, and stimulating economic growth through job creation and technological advancement."

7 dead as fire breaks out at double-storey building in Mumbai

MUMBAI, Oct 6 (Agencies): Seven persons, including three minors, were killed after a fire broke out in a double-storey shop-cum-residential structure in Mumbai on Sunday morning, a fire official said.

The incident took place at 5.20 am at Sidharth Colony in Chembur area, he said.

The ground floor of the structure was used as a shop and the upper floor as residence, the official said.

The blaze was confined to the electric wiring and installations in the shop at the ground floor and spread to the upper floor, he said, adding it was a



'level-one' fire.

Seven persons were injured in the incident. They were taken to the Rajawadi Hospital where all of them were declared brought dead, the official said.

Fire engines, water tankers and other assistance were rushed to the spot and the blaze was doused by 9.15 am,

the official said.

The deceased have been identified as Paris Gupta (7), Manju Prem Gupta (30), Anita Gupta (39), Prem Gupta (30), Narendra Gupta (10), Vidhi Chediram Gupta (15) and Gitadevi Dharamdev Gupta (60), he said.

The cause of the blaze was not yet known.

"Hindu society has to unite by eliminating differences, disputes of language, caste, province": Bhagwat

BARAN NAGAR, Oct 6 (Agencies): Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat called on the Hindu society to unite by eliminating differences and disputes of languages, caste and province for its own security.

Addressing an RSS volunteer gathering in Krishi Upaj Mandi in Baran Nagar, Bhagwat said that discipline of conduct, duty towards the state and having the quality of being goal-orientated were necessary in society.

"For its security, Hindu society will have to unite by eliminating differences and disputes of language, caste, and



province. Society should be such that there is a practice of organisation, goodwill and intimacy. Discipline of conduct, duty towards the state and the quality of being goal-orientated are necessary in society. Society is not made by me and my family only; rather, we have to achieve God in our lives by taking all-around

concern for society," he said.

He said that India is a 'Hindu nation' and that the term Hindu was used for 'all sects' of people living here in the country.

"India is a Hindu nation. We have been living here since ancient times, although the name Hindu came later. Hindu was used for all

the sects of India living here. Hindus consider everyone as their own and accept everyone. Hindu says that we are right and you are also right in your place," Bhagwat said.

He mentioned that the RSS's work was not mechanical but thought-based and that there was no work in 'the world' that could be compared to the work done by the RSS.

He said for the Sangh, the values go from the group leader to the volunteer and from them to the family members of the volunteers. This was the method of personality development in the Sangh, Bhagwat added. "Sangh's work is

not mechanical but thought-based. There is no work in the world comparable to Sangh's work... Sangh cannot be compared with anyone. From Sangh, values go to the group leader, from the group leader to the volunteer and from the volunteer to the family... This is the method of personality development in Sangh," he said.

Rajasthan region Sanghchalak Ramesh Agarwal, Chittor province Sanghchalak Jagdish Singh Rana, Jagan division Sanghchalak Ramesh Chand Mehta and Baran district Sanghchalak Vaidya Radheshyam Garg were also present at the event, among others.

Claims on economy conceal choke points that will strangle growth, says Congress

NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (Agencies): Asserting that the last 10 years have seen "highly detrimental economic trends", the Congress on Sunday said the monsoon has receded but at least "three dark clouds" of languishing private sector investment, stagnating manufacturing and decline in real wages and productivity for labourers, still loom over the Indian economy.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said bombastic claims on the economy are being made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but what these claims conceal are the choke points that will strangle growth in the years to come if not taken seriously now.

After a brief surge in private sector invest-

ment during 2022-23, new project announcements in the private sector fell by 21 per cent between FY23 and FY24, he pointed out.

In this context, rather than growing their businesses, companies are using profits to reduce debt burdens, he claimed.

"We are witnessing a growing financialisation of the Indian economy, with India Inc. - perhaps taking its cue from the government - focusing on stock market valuations rather than top-line revenue growth," Ramesh said.

Secondly, ten years after the government's flagship Make in India scheme was launched, India's manufacturing is stagnating. As a share of GDP, manufacturing is the same as it was ten years ago," the Congress leader said.



Ramesh pointed out that as a share of total employment, manufacturing has marginally declined. The country's share in global merchandise exports has also largely stagnated.

He further said that growth in India's share of global exports grew much faster in the 2005-15 period, largely corresponding to Dr. Manmohan Singh's tenure as Prime Minister. In labour-intensive sectors

like garments, exports have fallen from USD 15 billion in 2013-14 to USD 14.5 billion in 2023-2024.

This shrinking of manufacturing is largely attributable to the PM's inexplicable trade policy - where it disincentivizes participation in global value chains (GVCs) through high tariffs while silently permitting Chinese dumping of mass imports, Ramesh alleged.

Decrease in labour productivity has impacted real wage growth

Third, the latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2022-2023 has revealed a decline in real wages and productivity for India's labourers.

The growth in GVA per worker slowed from 6.6% in 2014-15 to 0.6% by 2018-19, adding that this decrease in labour productivity has impacted real wage growth, especially amidst rising inflation.

"These are merely the issues that have surfaced in the past few weeks but the last ten years have seen other highly detrimental economic trends, including rising oligopolisation, mass unemployment, and high inflation," he said.

Two children killed in separate incidents of attacks by wild animals in UP's Lakhimpur Kheri



LAKHIMPUR KHERI, Oct 6 (Agencies): Two children were killed in separate incidents of attacks by wild animals in this district, police said on Sunday.

The first incident took place in Sharanagar forest range of South Kheri forest division.

A wild animal, alleged to be a leopard, took away a 12-year-old child named Sajeb of Gangabehar village while he was pushing his father's bicycle on Saturday evening.

The animal killed the child and his dead body was later recovered from a sugarcane field, about 500 meters away from the village, on Saturday night, the police said.

The victim's father, Munavvar, said that he was carrying fertilizer sacks on

his bicycle to his village while his son was pushing the bicycle to help him.

The route passed through dense sugarcane fields.

A leopard hiding in a sugarcane field came out of its hiding and dragged Sajeb inside the cane fields, he added.

After a hectic search, Sajeb's dead body was recovered from a cane field.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), South Kheri, Sanjay Biswal, confirmed the incident and said that forest teams had been rushed to the spot and efforts were on to identify the wild animal, which might be a leopard.

The second incident took place in Kurtaiha village under Padhuva police limits, where a three-year-old Riza Bano was killed in a wild animal's attack. Her dead body was recovered floating in the Ghaghra river on Saturday. The village falls under buffer zone of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR).

Her mother said that a wolf had entered her home on Friday night and took away the child from her. However, the officials suspected that a leopard had attacked the girl.

Field Director, Dudhwa, Lalit Verma, said the presence of wolves in the area had never been earlier reported.

24 killed as Israeli airstrike hits mosque in Gaza, claims Palestinian media

An Israeli airstrike on a mosque in central Gaza killed 24 and injured many. The Israeli military said in a statement it conducted a precise strike on Hamas terrorists who were operating within a command and control centre.

DEIR AL-BALAH, Oct 6 (Agencies): At least 24 people were killed and 93 others wounded when Israeli airstrikes targeted a mosque and a school sheltering displaced people in the Gaza Strip early on Sunday morning, the Hamas-run Gaza government media office said.

The strikes on the mosque and the school, near the Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip, came as the war between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas in the enclave approaches its first anniversary.

In its own statement, the Israeli military said it conducted "pre-



precise strikes on Hamas terrorists" who were operating within

command and control centres embedded in Ibn Rushd School

and the Shuhada al-Aqsa Mosque in the area of Deir al Balah.

The latest bloodshed in the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict was triggered when Hamas attacked southern Israel on October 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people and taking about 250 as hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel's subsequent military assault on Gaza has killed nearly 42,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's health ministry. It has also displaced nearly all of the enclave's 2.3 million people, caused a hunger crisis and led to genocide allegations at the World Court that Israel denies.

Shame on them: Netanyahu slams Macron's call for arms embargo



JERUSALEM, Oct 6 (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hit out at France's President Emmanuel Macron on Saturday for saying that shipments of arms to Israel used in the conflict in Gaza should be stopped as part of a broader effort to find a political solution. "Shame on them," Netanyahu said of Macron and other

Western leaders who have called for what he described as an arms embargo on Israel.

"Israel will win with or without their support," he said in a pre-recorded video released by his office, adding that calling for an arms embargo was a disgrace.

Macron earlier told France Inter radio that the priority was "to get back to a political solu-

tion (and) that arms used to fight in Gaza are halted. France doesn't ship any."

"Our priority now is to avoid escalation. The Lebanese people must not in turn be sacrificed, Lebanon cannot become another Gaza," he added.

France is not a major weapons provider for Israel, shipping military equipment worth 30 million euros (\$33 million) last year, according to the defence ministry's annual arms exports report.

Macron's comments come as his Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot is on a four-day trip to the Middle East, wrapping up on Monday in Israel as Paris looks to play a role in reviving diplomatic efforts.

Hungarians protest state media 'propaganda factory' and demand unbiased press

BUDAPEST, Oct 6 (Agencies): Thousands of protesters gathered outside the headquarters of Hungary's public media corporation to demonstrate against what they say is an entrenched propaganda network operated by the nationalist government at taxpayer expense.

The protest was organized by Hungary's most prominent opposition figure, Péter Magyar, and his upstart TISZA party, which has emerged in recent months as the most serious political challenge for Prime Minister Viktor Orbán since he took power nearly 15 years ago.

Magyar, whose party received nearly 30% of the vote in European Union elections this summer and is polling within a few points of the governing Fidesz party, has been outspoken about what he sees as the damage Orbán's "propaganda factory" has done to Hungary's democracy.

"What is happening here in Hungary in 2024, and calling itself 'public service' media, is a global scandal," Magyar told the crowd in Budapest. "Enough of the nastiness, enough of the lies, enough of the propaganda. Our patience has run out. The time for confrontation has come."

Both Hungarian and international observers have long warned that press freedom in the Central European country was under threat, and that Orbán's party has used media buyouts by gov-

ernment-connected business tycoons to build a pro-government media empire.

Media watchdog Reporters Without Borders estimates that such buyouts have given Orbán's party control of some 80% of Hungary's media market resources. In 2021, the group put Orbán on its list of media "predators," the first EU leader to earn the distinction.

Balázs Tömpe, a protester that traveled several hours to attend the demonstration, called the state media headquarters a "factory of lies."

"The propaganda goes out at such a level and is so unbalanced that it's blood boiling, and I think we need to raise our voices," he said. "It's nonsense that only government propaganda comes out in the media that is financed by the taxpayers."

A retired teacher from southern Hungary, Ágnes Gera, said dissenting voices were censored from the public media, limiting Hungarians' access to information about political alternatives.

"It's very burdensome and unfortunate that the system works this way where the public only hears from one side and don't even know about the other side," she said.

Magyar demanded the resignation of the public media director, and echoed complaints from many opposition politicians that they are not provided the opportunity to appear on public television to communicate with voters.

North Korea and China mark their 75th anniversary of ties as outsiders question their relationship

The message exchange came as North Korea and Russia have been sharply expanding their cooperation while China apparently keeps its distance.

SEOUL, Oct 6 (Agencies): The leaders of North Korea and China marked the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations on Sunday by exchanging messages that expressed hopes for stronger ties, as outsiders raised questions about their relationship.

The message exchange came as North Korea and Russia have been sharply expanding their cooperation while China apparently keeps its distance. Experts say that the level of exchanges and commemorative programs between North Korea and China in the coming months will provide a clue to the exact status of their ties.

In a message sent to Chinese President Xi Jinping, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his government will "steadily strive to consolidate and develop the friendly and cooperative relations" between the two countries, according to North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency.

Xi, in his message to Kim, said that China is ready to jointly promote "the stable and further advance of the socialist cause



in the two countries," KCNA said.

Since North Korea and China established diplomatic ties on Oct. 6, 1949, their relationship has often been described as being "as close as lips and teeth." China, North Korea's biggest trading partner and main aid provider, has been suspected of avoiding fully implementing U.N. sanctions on North Korea and sending clandestine aid shipments to help its impoverished neighbor stay afloat and

continue to serve as a bulwark against U.S. influence on the Korean Peninsula.

But many observers say China is reluctant to form a three-way, anti-West alliance with North Korea and Russia as it prefers a stable regional security environment to tackle numerous economic challenges and maintain relationships with Europe and its Asian neighbors.

North Korea and Russia have moved significantly closer to each other amid widespread

outside suspicions that North Korea has supplied conventional weapons to Russia for its war in Ukraine in return for military and economic assistance. During a meeting in Pyongyang in June, Kim and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a pact stipulating mutual military assistance if either country is attacked, in what was considered the two countries' biggest defense deal since the end of the Cold War.

North Korea is locked in confrontations with the U.S., South Korea and their partners over its advancing nuclear program. Kim has said he was forced to expand both nuclear and conventional capabilities to cope with U.S.-led security threats.

On Sunday, KCNA reported that Kim oversaw a live artillery firing drill by cadets of a military academy. After watching the drill, Kim said training programs at the military academy must focus on "the guerrilla war tactics to wipe out the enemies through rapid mobile and surprise operations," according to KCNA.

Survivors grapple with aid cuts and the Taliban a year after massive Afghan earthquake

The devastating earthquake that hit western Afghanistan's Herat province a year ago was a major challenge for the Taliban

KABUL, Oct 6 (Agencies): People had just seconds to flee their homes when the terrifying sound of earth cracking open reverberated across western Afghanistan's Herat province.

Nobody knows for sure how many people died in a 6.3 magnitude earthquake on Oct. 7, 2023, or in the strong aftershocks that followed. The Taliban government estimated that at least 4,000 perished. The U.N. gave a far lower figure of about 1,500. Survivors stopped counting, exhausted after digging through dirt to save their loved ones or bury them.

It was the deadliest natural disaster to strike Afghanistan in recent memory.

It was also another major challenge for the Taliban since they seized power in 2021, a test of their readiness to lead a country beset by economic hardship, isolation, devastation from decades of war, and vulnerability to shocks like earthquakes and climate change.

"At that time, the government really cooperated in transporting patients and the dead," said Ismatullah Rah-

mani, from the quake's epicenter in Zinda Jan district, where every home, usually built of mud and timber, was levelled. His brother and nephew were killed, and he spent hours trying to free his wife from under 1 1/2-meter (60 inches) of soil. She survived.

"They opened hospitals and provided water and food to people for free," he told The Associated Press from his new home in Zinda Jan. He said the Taliban went to camps and helped survivors over several months, a blessing ahead of the harsh Herat winter.

"After that, our aid stopped," said Rahmani.

Charities had stepped in to build housing for survivors. But the accommodation they built lacks walls so there is no privacy, while the poor design leaves them vulnerable to storms or heavy rainfall. Houses either have no bathrooms or the bathrooms don't have a roof.

Rahmani's village, Naib Rafi, still doesn't have a health clinic or a school. Instead, children are learning in tents.

The government didn't pro-



vide financial assistance, he said. Senior officials and Islamic scholars visited communities a few times, listened to people's problems and left.

Ahmadullah Muttaqi, spokesman and member of the Herat Earthquake Commission, said authorities worked with charities and nongovernmental groups to provide shelter and medical assistance.

"People's problems haven't been solved, of course, but the first necessity is building houses until they stand on their own feet. They have been given food and hospitals are still working," he told agency. He said they were still working to rebuild mosques, schools, madras-

as and parks.

He did not answer questions about authorities' preparedness for future disasters.

Afghans were already struggling with displacement, food insecurity and poverty before the quake struck, and the tragedy put further pressure on public services. Aid agencies, which have been propping up Afghan health care and education for the past three years under the Taliban, became even more thinly stretched.

The International Rescue Committee set up feeding corners after the earthquake so mothers could safely breastfeed children and get nutrition counsel-

ing. The relief agency said it also fixed water systems, provided emergency cash, hygiene kits, medical and mental health support to tens of thousands of people.

But, with other global crises raging, such support is finite.

International funding for Afghanistan has received less than a third of its target. Changing political priorities, economic troubles and wars are hitting donors' pockets, especially those in the West.

Widespread opposition to the Taliban's treatment of Afghan women and girls is also having an effect.

"There is donor fatigue, for sure, but perhaps the bigger problem is a nervousness from many donors about supporting anything but the

most urgent life-saving aid," said Mark Calder from World Vision International.

The U.N. says international recognition of the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan is nearly impossible while restrictions remain on female education and employment.

The Taliban reject this position, demanding Afghanistan's seat at the U.N. and saying that sanctions and the country's continued isolation are hurting people.

Investment in quality development assistance would benefit Afghan women and girls disproportionately and it's sometimes in their name that a reduction in aid to Afghanistan is promoted, said Calder.

"It's difficult to imagine that Afghan communities are much better prepared for natural disasters than they were a year ago," he added.

Herat authorities have been unable to fully meet humanitarian needs, while damaged infrastructure has hampered recovery efforts. A near-total reliance on aid organizations for basics like health care and shelter has left people exposed.

Four of Gul Ahmad Osmani's children died in the disaster. He heard boys screaming under the soil in his village. It was impossible to pull them out, he said.

He and his surviving family members spent the winter in a tent. "The government took care of us, keeping my wife and children in a camp, but we didn't see anything from the government that was specifically from them, like flour, cooking oil or rice," Osmani said. "Our own people, the people of Afghanistan, brought food for several days."

The helping hands came from other cities, districts and provinces to clear away rubble, bury the dead, and distribute everyday items like clothing.

But it's been almost six months since NGOs or well-wishers came to help the residents of Zinda Jan. A kind doctor from northern Baghlan province donated money recently.

"There are still earthquakes and these new houses are heavy," said Osmani. "Children are afraid. The help for the earthquake did not help us."

Maldives president Muizzu arrives today for state visit; eyes bailout package to salvage sinking nation

NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (Agencies): Nearly a year since he took over as the President of the Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu will arrive in India on Sunday for a five-day state visit. The premier's first official visit to India is expected to reset ties with Delhi which soured after Muizzu's stormed into power riding on 'India-out campaign'. The President left for India at 12:06 pm local time on an Indian Defense Research and Development aircraft. The aircraft is operated by the Indian Air Force, reported Male-based Adhaddu. Much has happened since Muizzu took over last year. India had to withdraw Indian military personnel from his country, replacing them with civilians. Muizzu, known for his pro-China, broke the long tradition of Maldivian presidents visiting New Delhi first to travel to Ankara, the capital of Turkey, for his first official visit. He later followed it up with his first bilateral visit to China, sending a message that the island



nation was reorienting its foreign policy. Things hit rock bottom after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Lakshadweep. The derogatory remark made by three Maldivian officials about Narendra Modi triggered a backlash in the form of a 'Boycott Maldives' campaign. Indian tourists ditched the Maldives, hitting its tourism-driven economy badly. However, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit suggested relations were being mended. In Male, Jaishankar assured the country's top leadership that the Maldives remains an important partner of India in maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region. Now, Muizzu's India visit is expected to reset ties in the wake of the financial crisis gripping the island nation. Already dependent on external loans, including from India, for much of its development projects, the economy of the Maldives began to deteriorate further under Muizzu. High inflation, increasing

imports, and a reduction in fish exports and tourism revenues pushed the country to the edge of a sovereign default on a Sukuk. At present, the foreign exchange reserves of the Maldives stand at \$470mn, just enough for two months of imports. Global agency Moody's too downgraded the Maldives' credit rating, saying that "default risks have risen materially". In this context, Maldives can't afford to overlook India. The Maldives owes the bulk of its \$3.4 billion for-

ign debt to hinese and Indian loans over the past decade. India has also expressed interest in helping the Maldives. Last month, it gave the country a bailout of \$50 mn to avoid default. Experts believe Muizzu's turnaround indicates that Maldives realise how dependent it is on India. Though there has been no official confirmation yet, both countries may discuss the aid package. "The key priority of Muizzu's visit is to secure a financial helpline in the form of grant-in-aid and restructuring debt repayments," a senior Maldivian editor told the BBC. "Muizzu also wants a \$400m currency swap deal sought by the Maldives central bank to shore up depleted foreign exchange reserves," he added. He added that despite Muizzu's overtures and statement that China has given a green signal for deferring debt payments for five years, financial assistance from Beijing has not been forthcoming.

Two stranded foreign mountaineers safely rescued after three-day ordeal in Uttarakhand

UTTARAKHAND, Oct 6 (Agencies): Both are safe despite their ordeal lasting three days. Though looking somewhat tired, the experienced mountaineers wore a smile when they were brought to the Jyotirmath (Joshimath) helipad by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel on Sunday morning.

A joint operation by the IAF, SDRF and the State Disaster Management Authority carried out over the past two days led to their safe evacuation. Two IAF helicopters began a search operation to trace them on Friday. They were joined by climbing trained SDRF personnel on Saturday to assist in the operations hampered by fog and

adverse weather conditions. The two were part of a foreign mountaineering expedition by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation. The two got stranded after their bag containing food and vital climbing gear fell into a gorge when they were at a height of 6,015 metres on the way to Chaukhamba III peak situated at 6,995 metres.

Will RBI slash interest rates in line with US Fed rate cut? MPC meeting to take a call



NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (Agencies): The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is set to meet this week as part of its bimonthly review. The MPC was reconstituted at the beginning of this month, adding three external members to the panel. The meeting, scheduled from October 7 to 9, comes at a time when tensions in the Middle East are raising a concern over price of crude oil and commodities as RBI struggles to keep retail inflation under control. Will RBI cut interest rates? RBI Governor Shak-

tikanta Das The central bank is unlikely to slash the benchmark interest rate and RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das will announce the final decision on October 9. The RBI has kept the repo rate of 6.5 per cent unaltered in the previous nine consecutive meetings since February 2023. Reports suggest that any chance of easing the rates will happen only by the following meeting that is expected in December. This comes despite major economies like the US and China have cut their interest rates. The US Fed Reserve slashed its benchmark

rates by 50 basis points, with further cuts expected in coming months. However, the domestic economic trends do not align with the global scenario as inflation risk persists, especially price of vegetables. Though the country witnessed an abundant monsoon, RBI will take a call based on the impact of rainfall and food inflation. Another reason for the RBI opting to maintain status quo could be the current uncertainty around tensions in the Middle East as Israel and Iran vowed to retaliate ahead of the anniversary of last year's October 7 attacks.

After 'animal fat in Tirupati laddu' shocker, devotee claims insect in parasadam; TTD refutes

TIRUPATI, Oct 6 (Agencies): Amidst huge row over alleged use of adulterated ghee for making laddu prasadam at Tirupati Venkateshwara temple, a devotee has alleged he found millipede in Anna prasadam served at the temple. The temple board, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, refuted the allegations and called them "false and unfounded". Apparently, a devotee who recently visited Tirupati temple alleged he found a millipede in the curd rice served during



lunch (Anna prasadam) at the temple. He also charged when authorities of the temple board were alerted, they responded very casually to his com-

plaint. However, the temple board refuted the allegations and said they were deliberate attempts to defame the institution. In a statement on social media, TTD said, "TTD refutes claims of a millipede in Anna prasadam at Madhava Nilayam, calling them false and unfounded. TTD asserts this is a deliberate attempt to defame the institution and urges devotees not to be misled by false news." "TTD prepares hot Anna Prasadam for thousands

of devotees that come for Srivari Darshan and it is unconvincing claim by the devotee that a centipede fell in Annaprasadam. Even if rice is mixed with curd the creature could not go unnoticed," it said. Calling the allegations fake, the temple board said it was a deliberate attempt to defame the holy institution and hurt sentiments of devotees who consume prasadam at the temple. TTD urged devotees to not get carried away by the allegations. Recently, Andhra

Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu kicked up a huge row saying ghee adulterated with animal fat was used to make laddus at the temple during the previous Jagan Mohan Reddy regime. The Supreme Court has ordered an independent probe by a Special Investigation Team into the allegations. The team includes two CBI officers, two Andhra Pradesh police officers and a senior officer from FSSAI. The probe is being monitored by CBI director.

FROM PAGE 1

J&K Assembly Polls | Three-Tier security arrangements in place at counting centres

October 1. "Only authorized counting agents of the contesting candidates and staff posted on counting duty will be allowed inside the counting halls," the official said. He said the tally of votes for each candidate will be announced after every round of counting on the public address system outside the counting halls. The first ever polls in Jammu and Kashmir after it was made a Union Territory witnessed a voter turnout of 63.45 per cent, less than the 65.52 percent recorded in the 2014 assembly elections. The fate of 873 candidates, vying for a seat in the 90-member house, has been sealed and it will be known by Tuesday evening. The prominent among those in the fray are National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, who is contesting from Budgam and Ganderbal segments; Sajad Gani Lone of People's Conference who is contesting from Handwara and Kupwara seats; Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hamid Karra, who is a candidate from Batamaloos seat; and BJP state president Ravindra Raina, who is contesting from Nowshera seat. The other notable contestants are AICC general secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir (Dooru), PDP leaders Waheed Para (Pulwama), Iltija Mufti (Bijbehara), Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari (Chanapora), CPI(M) veteran Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami (Kulgam) and former deputy chief ministers Muzaffar Hussain Baig and Tara Chand. The exit polls, which came out on Saturday, have put the National Conference-Congress alliance in the pole position with the regional party getting the lion's share of the seats. The BJP is expected to slightly improve on its tally of 25 seats which it had won in the 2014 assembly polls while the PDP, which had won 28 seats in the polls held 10 years ago, is predicted to win less than 10 seats this time. The pollsters have not given much of a

chance to the new and emerging parties like the People's Conference, Apni Party, Democratic Azad Party of Ghulam Nabi Azad and Awami Ittehad Party of Lok Sabha member Sheikh Abdul Rashid. These parties along with independents are expected to win around 10 seats.

Indian Army seizes huge cache of weapons, explosives in Poonch

"On October 5, based on reliable input, a major search operation was launched by Romeo Force of the Indian Army in the Jhulas area, where during a search a suspected terrorist bag with a huge amount of cache like AK 47 and Pistol rounds of Pakistani origin and sophisticated explosives like RCIED, Timed destruction IED, Stove IED, explosives for IED and Chinese Grenades were found," the Army said in a statement. According to the officials, all items were in functional and ready-to-use condition. "Considering smooth elections and upcoming poll results this is a major success by the Indian Army denying any possibility to disturb the security grid," they said. The operation is still underway, they added.

Confident of pro-development votes in J&K, BJP to form Govt: Bhandari

should not be considered a significant contender due to their poor vote share in previous elections. "One shouldn't take the PDP seriously because they received only eight percent of the votes last time. Mehbooba Mufti lost her own seat, and BJP received three times the number of votes. The PDP or Congress's internal surveys predicting their victory are flawed. When the results come out on October 8, we all know who will win," Bhandari said. However, the Axis My India exit poll on Saturday, October 5, predicted a hung assembly in Jammu and Kashmir, with the National Conference-Congress alliance

slightly ahead and the BJP trailing close behind.

According to Axis My India, the NC-Congress alliance can win 35-45 seats whereas the BJP can win 24-34 seats. Notably, the majority mark to form the government in the Union Territory is 46 and the prediction has shown no one above the mark.

Why is it so difficult to follow Gandhi's path, asks Wangchuk as he is denied to protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar

follow the path of Gandhi in his own country. There must be a way..." wrote the agitated activist.

Punjab AAP leader hospitalised after being shot during argument with Akali Leader in Jalalabad

and later referred to the district medical centre in Ludhiana for further treatment on seeing his critical condition, reports said. Jalalabad AAP MLA Jagdeep Kamboj Goldy alleged the bullet was fired by Akali leader Vardev Singh Mann. The incident happened outside the office of the block development and panchayat officer (BDPO). Fazlika senior police officer Varinder Singh Brar rushed to Jalalabad on hearing about the incident. Mr Brar said that Vardev Singh Noni Mann, the son of former MP Zora Singh Mann, came to the BDPO office to ask about clearing a file linked to a school. The BDPO declined their request, following which the Akali leaders seemed visibly upset and walked out of the office. Outside, they clashed with the AAP leader, Mandeep Singh Brar, during which the shot was allegedly fired by the Akali leader Vardev Singh. The police said they are investigating the case.

"No need to think about

India's foreign policy": Kavinder on Mirwaiz Farooq statement

about its policy with Pakistan. Mirwaiz does not need to think or talk about India's foreign policy, the government will do it. They should be more concerned with India rather than Pakistan." Gupta stressed that Mirwaiz should focus on domestic issues rather than concerning himself with Pakistan, adding that Pakistan is notorious for fostering terrorism. "There is no need for anyone to give such advice. Pakistan gives birth to terrorism and spreads it, the country is a 'gyaan-daata' for terrorism. They are the ones who kicked out them (Kashmiri Pandits), they are the ones who created such an atmosphere," said Gupta.

Gulmarg, Razdan Pass receive season's first snowfall; rains affect plains

light snowfall during the intervening nights of Saturday and Sunday, resulting in a drop in the temperature, they said. The tourists were overjoyed to see snowfall over the surrounding mountains at Gulmarg and Sonamarg. Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir Valley experienced light rainfall. Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecasts isolated to scattered light rain in Kashmir valley during the next 48 hours. "A weak Western disturbance is expected to affect Jammu and Kashmir from Tuesday onwards, and under its influence, the weather will generally be expected to remain cloudy with the possible sunny breaks," independent weather observer Faizan Arif told UNI. He said there are also chances of a rain shower or spell in some parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Higher reaches may again receive a snowstorm during the period. The day temperatures are expected to fall by several degrees Celsius. Night temperatures are also expected to drop after the passage of this Western disturbance. Barring Gulmarg, the night temperature across the Kashmir valley was recorded 2

to 4 degrees Celsius above normal. At Gulmarg, the temperature recorded during the intervening nights of Saturday and Sunday was 1.8 degrees Celsius below normal.

Hate speech: Ulemas of J-K, Ladakh urge HM to take action against Yati Naringshanand

Amit Shah in a jointly signed letter, urging an immediate and firm action against the Hindutva militant priest, Yati Narsinghanand for his derogatory remarks against the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Asking for his urgent attention to the issue which has affected the sentiments of millions of Muslims across India and beyond, the scholars said that Narsinghanand's remarks have caused severe emotional distress to the Muslim community. The Hindutva priest's remarks have a potential to create widespread unrest across the country, the scholars said. Asserting the Freedom of speech is a fundamental right, the scholars said it cannot be "a license to spread hate and cause deep hurt to the religious sentiments and of an entire community." "India is a land of many religions and ethnicities, where respect for all religions should be paramount. Such remarks are not only offensive but also divisive and pose a threat to communal harmony and peace," read the letter. "We demand that Government of India take appropriate legal action against Yati Narsinghanand for his hate filled comments in accordance with the law and constitution of the land and respect the sanctity of our faith," urged the Muslim scholars. They said an immediate and firm action in this matter will send a strong message. The action against the Hindu militant, whose followers were seen threatening to burn large effigies labelled as the holy Prophet (PBUH) and his dear cousin, Imam Ali (a.s) on a widespread video on the Internet, will serve a message to the people that "hate speech and incitement to violence will have no place in the civilised society," the letter read. "We hope that you will address this sensitive matter with seriousness, and we also hope that necessary steps will be taken to restore peace and harmony among all the communities," the scholars concluded.

Per capita income to rise by \$2K over next five years: Sitharaman

NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (Agencies): India's per capita income is projected to increase by 2,000 USD over the next five years, said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her inaugural speech at Kautilya Economic Conclave in New Delhi. The finance minister said the upcoming decades would see the steepest rise in living standards for the common citizen driven by economic and structural reforms implemented over the past decade. Currently, the per capita income is at 2,730 USD.

"While it took us 75 years to reach a per capita income of 2,730 USD, as per IMF (International Monetary Fund) projections, it will take



only five years to add another 2,000 USD," Sitharaman said. "Ultimately, the largest stakeholders and beneficiaries of the growth process towards Viksit

Bharat will be the four major groups, namely garib (poor), mahilayen (women), yuva (youth) and annadata (farmer). Accordingly, the budgets in

Amrit Kaal will be devised with these stakeholders in mind," Sitharaman added.

She said India's creditable economic performance in the recent decade was underscored by its jump from being the tenth to the fifth largest economy in a matter of five years, sustained high growth rates and inflation well within the comfortable range.

"By 2047, the new Indian era will have core characteristics similar to developed countries," she elaborated.

According to the Finance Minister, the youthful population would provide a large base for total factor productivity improvements, savings, and investment.

PM Internship Scheme: 50 more companies join the initiative



NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (Agencies): The government's PM Internship Portal has seen a remarkable uptick in internship listings, with over 2,200 opportunities currently available, sources aware of the development confirmed. This follows the onboarding of 50 new com-

panies, in addition to 111 that joined.

Prominent firms such as Britannia, HDFC Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Max Life Insurance, and Alembic Pharma have already onboarded the PM Internship Scheme via the online portal solely dedicated for this initiative.

PwC and Godrej are exploring the PM internship scheme for their participation. Additionally, as per sources, state-owned Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) plans to onboard 977 interns across various trades in its plants, while Jindal Steel & Power (JSPL) is set to register for the scheme, aiming to enrol nearly 500 interns.

Public sector banks are also in the process of joining the initiative, further expanding the scope of available internship opportunities. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has developed the online portal, which is slated to open for candidates on October 12.

Hyundai seeks \$19 billion valuation for its mega India IPO, says report

NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (Agencies): Hyundai Motor Co. is reportedly targeting a \$19 billion valuation for the upcoming initial public offering (IPO) of its India unit, reported Bloomberg, quoting sources familiar with the matter. The South Korean automaker plans to offload a 17.5% stake in Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL), aiming to raise around \$3.3 billion at this valuation, said the sources.

The IPO is expected to take place on October 22 in Mumbai, with several institutional investors, both local and foreign, showing interest.

The sources indicated that a mix of asset managers, insurers, pension funds, and sovereign wealth funds have already expressed preliminary interest in the



offering.

Hyundai is expected to file updated documents with India's market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), possibly as soon as Monday. However, details like the size, value, and timing of the IPO could still change as discussions are ongoing, the sources said.

Hyundai's IPO could potentially surpass the record set by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in 2022,

which raised \$2.5 billion. If successful, this would also be one of Asia's largest IPOs in recent years.

India's equity market has been buoyed by strong economic growth, and investor appetite remains high.

According to data compiled by Bloomberg, Indian companies have already raised more than \$9 billion through IPOs this year, doubling the amount raised during the same period in 2023.

Temasek eyes a bite of Haldiram's at valuation of \$11 billion: Report

NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (Agencies): Haldiram's has attracted interest from global investors once again as Singapore state investment firm Temasek Holdings Pte is in talks to acquire a minority stake in Haldiram Snacks Pvt Ltd, reported Bloomberg. Temasek is in preliminary discussions to buy a stake of 10% to 15% in the company, which is valued at approximately \$11 billion, as per the report. The potential investment is seen as a move that could lead Haldiram's towards a public listing in the future.

Global interest in Haldiram's This news follows a series of interests from other major private equity players, including Blackstone, Bain Capital, and others, who have shown interest in acquiring a stake in the iconic Indian snack brand.

In May 2024, media reports surfaced that Blackstone, in partnership with the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) and



Singapore's GIC, submitted a bid to acquire up to 76% of Haldiram Snacks Food Pvt Ltd.

The bid from Blackstone valued Haldiram's between Rs 70,000 crore and Rs 78,000 crore, making it one of the largest potential deals in India's food and snack sector.

Stepping stone for Haldiram's IPO

The discussions with Temasek come at a time when Haldiram's is exploring its growth potential

and could pave the way for an initial public offering (IPO). According to the report, the current talks are still at an early stage, and there is no guarantee the deal will proceed.

Haldiram's has been an attractive target for investors for a long time, with several firms like Bain Capital, Warburg Pincus, and General Atlantic showing interest in previous years.

Haldiram's, founded in 1937 as a small sweets and savouries

shop in Bikaner, Rajasthan, has since grown into a massive business. The company is now present in over 80 countries, and its products are a staple in Indian households and diaspora communities abroad.

Haldiram's business is divided into two main branches led by different factions of the Agarwal family—Haldiram Foods International, based in Nagpur, and Haldiram Snacks Pvt Ltd, based in Delhi.

Both branches are set to merge and form a new entity called Haldiram Snacks Food Pvt Ltd, which would streamline operations and increase efficiency.

In terms of financial performance, the Nagpur-based Haldiram Foods International reported revenues of Rs 3,622 crore for the financial year 2022. Meanwhile, the Delhi-based Haldiram Snacks Pvt Ltd recorded sales of Rs 5,248 crore during the same period.

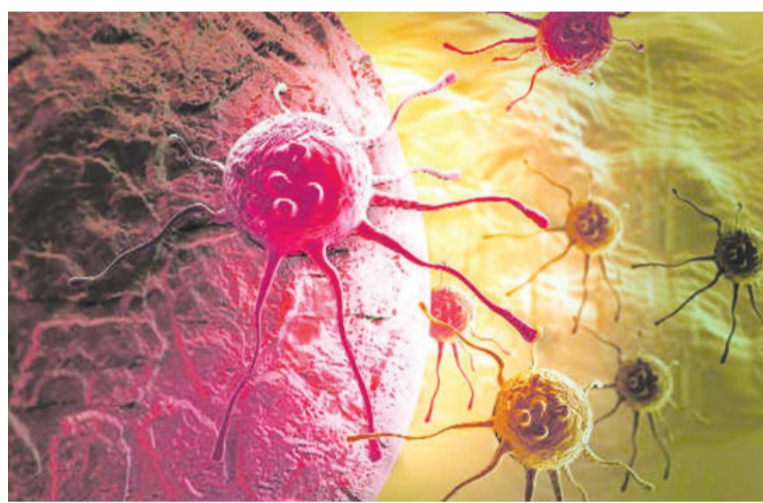
Indian-origin scientist finds cancer therapy safe for patients with HIV & TB

NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (Agencies): In a significant breakthrough to help patients battling both HIV and tuberculosis (TB), a study led by an Indian-origin scientist found a cancer therapy that can help control TB and not interfere with combined antiretroviral therapy (cART).

cART is a treatment that uses a combination of three or more drugs to treat HIV infection.

While many cases of TB can be controlled with months of antibiotics, the infection can return in people who are immunocompromised as a result of HIV. A resurging TB infection -- responsible for more than 1.3 million deaths worldwide -- can often be deadly to these individuals.

"This is an important hurdle that this host-directed therapy had to clear in order to help patients battling both HIV and



TB," said Professor Smriti Mehra, from Texas Biomedical Research Institute (Texas Biomed)

In the study, published in the peer-reviewed journal JCI Insight, the scientist and her team focussed on the protein, called IDO (short for Indoleamine-2,3-dioxygenase) -- a

therapy currently used in cancer.

The host-directed therapy, already approved by the US FDA, blocks or inhibits an immune system protein naturally found in the body.

The team showed that IDO normally suppresses the immune system, preventing it from causing excessive inflam-

mation and organ damage.

Blocking IDO for short intervals led to more successful cancer treatments.

Mehra's team previously showed that the same approach improves control of TB in conjunction with antibiotics.

They experimented with the therapy in the current study in nonhuman primates with both TB and simian immunodeficiency virus -- the nonhuman primate version of HIV.

The results showed the IDO inhibitor does not interfere with cART and is safe for patients with HIV.

Animals given cART and the IDO inhibitor showed no "increase in viral load" compared to those with only cART.

The scientist also called for longer-term studies to confirm there are no unintended side effects.

Cholesterol regulator can help treat depression, anxiety: Study



NEW YORK, Oct 6 (Agencies): Scientists revealed that a cholesterol regulator can become a surprising player in mental health research, helping treat depression and anxiety. Called LXRB, the nuclear receptor is known for its role in cholesterol metabolism and inflammation. It is now emerging as a crucial player in neuroscience and psychiatry.

In a review, published in the journal Brain Medicine, researchers Dr Xiaoyu Song and Professor Jan-Ake Gustafsson from the University of Houston and Karolinska Institutet (Sweden) shed light on the therapeutic potential of liver X receptor beta (LXRβ) in treating depression and anxiety.

According to the findings, the receptor's deficiency in female mice leads to anxiety-like behaviour and impaired behavioural responses.

This comprehensive analysis marks a significant step forward in understanding the molecular underpinnings of mental health disorders and potentially revolutionizing their treatment.

"Our analysis reveals that the receptor plays a pivotal role in preventing central nervous system disease in experimental rodent models," said Dr Song. If these observations translate to humans, it could emerge as a novel therapeutic target for treating neuropsychiatric disorders, particularly depression and anxiety.

It challenges us to think more holistically about mental health and its underlying molecular mechanisms, the professor added.

The activation of the regulator in the amygdala exerts anxiolytic effects by rebalancing excitatory and inhibitory neurotransmission, it added.

Its signalling also regulates neurogenesis and enhances cognitive function, which may have implications for treating depression.

The review also explores its role in autism spectrum disorder (ASD), suggesting potential connections between cholesterol metabolism, brain development, and ASD symptoms.

Professor Gustafsson said the connection between the receptor, traditionally associated with metabolic functions, and complex psychiatric disorders like depression and anxiety, underscores the interconnectedness of biological systems.

While the findings are promising, the authors caution that additional basic research and clinical trials are necessary to determine whether novel drugs targeting the receptor can be effectively utilised in treating neurological and neuropsychiatric diseases.

AI can analyse retinal images for cardiovascular risk: Researchers

NEW YORK, Oct 6 (Agencies): An international team of researchers on Friday said that by leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to analyse retinal images for cardiovascular risk assessment, they aim to bridge a crucial gap in early disease detection.

A recent position paper in the Asia-Pacific Journal of Ophthalmology explores the transformative potential of AI in ophthalmology. The work represents a collaboration among researchers from Penn Engineering, Penn Medicine, the University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center,

St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem, and Gyeongsang National University College of Medicine in Korea.

With fundus photography enabling the visualisation of retina at the back of the eye, the potential of AI in providing systemic disease biomarkers is becoming a reality.

When fundus images are of sufficient quantity and quality, it becomes possible to train AI systems to detect elevated HbA1c levels -- an important marker for high blood sugar.

A pilot study trained AI models to predict HbA1c levels based

on fundus images.

This study evaluated various factors -- such as AI model size and architecture, the presence of diabetes, and patient demographics (age and sex) -- and their impact on AI performance.

One of the study observations was that biased training samples for an ophthalmology model, such as a pool of predominantly older patients, can degrade model performance.

The results of the case study highlight the importance of developing trustworthy AI models for assessing cardiovas-

cular risk factors while addressing the challenges and problems that must be overcome prior to clinical adoption, as well as advancing reliable "oculomics" technology.

This method not only enhances our ability to identify at-risk individuals but also holds promise for transforming how we manage chronic conditions, such as diabetes. By focusing on practical applications of this technology, we are advancing towards more personalised and preventative healthcare solutions, the authors noted.

“Every format adds something to the game”: Sunil Gavaskar on National Cricket League T10 tournament

NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (Agencies): The ongoing National Cricket League Sixty Strikers (NCL) in the USA is bringing some breathtaking action for the fans. The tournament, where some big names like Dinesh Karthik, Shahid Afridi, Colin Munro, and Suresh Raina are featuring, is making new headlines everyday. In the third match, Atlanta Kings defeated Chicago by 23 runs. Atlanta did very well against Chicago, putting a score of 88/6 on the board in 10 overs, with wicket-keeper batter Tom Moores leading the scoring charts. He contributed 34 runs off 20 balls with the bat.

James Neesham was the other top-scoring batter for the side, scoring 16 runs off just 9 balls as he remained unbeaten till the end. Talking about the format of a T10 tournament, former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar stated that every format energizes the



other.

“It gives the players an opportunity to improve their game. I believe every format energizes the other format. Just like One Day matches energizes Tests, T20s energizes ODIs, and now T10 is showing new opportunities in terms of shot making,

different kind of deliveries. So, I think every format is adding something to the game and all this will eventually come in the longer format of the game,” said Gavaskar.

“Pitch makes a big difference. The odd balls gear up as these are all drop-in pitches. But the

ball is coming to the bat very nicely and you have seen that from the number of sixes and that’s what people wants to see. This is what the whole tournament is named, “Strikes”. So, you have to keep the strikes going,” he added.

On the other hand, Pakistan’s pace great Wasim Akram expressed his confidence about the league doing well as the legendary Indian batter Sachin Tendulkar has joined as a brand ambassador.

“There will be a lot of benefits from Tendulkar joining the league. Sachin has been the greatest player in world cricket. His joining this league will give recognition to such a tournament. Sachin’s arrival will give credibility to this league. I am friends with Sachin, I am also very excited to meet him. We have had a lot of competition on the field which the fans have liked a lot,” said Akram.

China open: Gauff fights back to beat Badosa in semis



BEIJING, Oct 6 (Agencies): Former US Open champion Coco Gauff fought back from a set down to beat Spain’s Paula Badosa 4-6 6-4 6-2 at the China Open in Beijing and set up a final with Czech Karolina Muchova. Gauff has a 7-1 record in tour finals.

Double faults and a weaker second serve troubled world number

six Gauff early in the match as Badosa won 75% of her second return points in the set.

The 20-year-old American has made a habit of slow starts in Beijing this week and the script played out again as the No. 19-ranked Badosa took a tight opening set in 59 minutes, saving 10 of 11 break points.

The Spaniard then built a 3-1 lead in the

second set before the 2023 US Open champion shifted the momentum by saving four break points and then breaking back to level at 4-4.

Gauff then held for 5-4 and broke Badosa again to force a deciding set.

Gauff said, “I was trying to stay focused. Mentally, I just tried to reset. I got down a couple of times, and I tried to bounce back.”

With all the momentum, Gauff then broke Badosa three more times — for the loss of one of her own — as she clinched the match in 2 hours, 20 minutes.

The 28-year-old reached the US Open semi-finals in September and ended top seed Aryna Sabalenka’s 15-match winning streak in the quarter-final.

Irani Cup: Mumbai end 27-yr drought



LUCKNOW, Oct 6 (Agencies): Tanush Kotian’s gritty unbeaten hundred laced Mumbai’s 15th Irani Cup victory which was sealed by virtue of their first innings lead over Rest Of India on the fifth and final day here.

Mumbai’s last Irani Cup victory came 27 years ago during the 1997-98 season and since then the domestic powerhouse appeared in eight more finals without success and the last of which was in the 2015-16 season. Mumbai, who started the final day from overnight 153 for six, declared their second innings at 329 for eight for an overall lead of 450 runs.

Kotian, who scored 64 in the first innings and resumed his innings on 20, remained not out on 114 off 150 balls, hitting 10 fours and a six.

Knowing the futility of chasing 451 in little over a session, the Rest of India skipper Rituraj Gaikwad shook hands with his opposite number Ajinkya Rahane, signalling the draw and victory for Mumbai, the defend-

ing Ranji Trophy champions, at the same time. Kotian, who showed remarkable maturity to steer Mumbai innings after the early departure of Sarfaraz Khan (17) and Shardul Thakur (2), received good support from No. 10 Mohit Avasthi.

Mumbai were 171 for seven at that stage. Avasthi remained unbeaten on 51 off 93 balls, striking four fours and a six, and helped Kotian to add valuable 158 runs for the ninth wicket.

Off-spinner Saransh Jain took six wickets (6/121) but his efforts could only delay the inevitable.

Mumbai skipper Rahane was understandably delighted. “Winning the trophy after 27 years feel amazing. It was a red-soil wicket. I will like to pick Tanush Kotian for his performances in the previous season and this match.

“The Ranji Trophy and Irani Cup belong to everyone — from the maidan cricketers to everyone playing cricket

in Mumbai.”

Sarfaraz was adjudged player of the match for his double hundred in Mumbai’s first innings.

“I follow the process well and came into the tournament with practice. You build up experience by playing in different grounds. You get a knowledge on how to play on different pitches.

“I have a lot to learn by being around the Test team and can improve every facet of my game,” said Sarfaraz.

Mumbai Cricket Association president Ajinkya Nayak lauded the team for the win.

“Congratulations to the Mumbai Team for clinching the Irani Cup! Once again, Mumbai demonstrated an outstanding example of grit and determination,” said Nayak.

Brief scores: Mumbai: 537 all out and 329/8 declared in 78 overs (Tanush Kotian 114 not out, Mohit Avasthi 51 not out, Prithvi Shaw 76; Saransh Jain 6/121) drew Rest of India: 416 all out.

“When i was playing under Rohit Sharma...”: Suryakumar Yadav on becoming captain in IPL

GWALIOR, Oct 6 (Agencies): Suryakumar Yadav is enjoying his time as India T20 captain and dropped enough hints about his ambitions of leading an IPL franchise is near future. Mumbai Indians would ideally like to retain Suryakumar but being a current India captain, it would also be interesting as to what is his expectation from the five-time champion outfit. Hardik Pandya grabbed the limelight last year when MI removed Rohit Sharma unceremoniously to put the colourful Baroda all-rounder on the hot seat, the move that backfired badly.

Suryakumar’s stock has risen since that last IPL and now that he is leading the national team, it remains to be seen what Mumbai Indians decide in the



lead up to the next season.

On the eve of the T20 series opener against Bangladesh, Suryakumar spoke to media about his time as India captain besides handing the query on IPL captaincy ambitions on a lighter note.

“Aapne googly daal diya

(laughs) (You put me in a spot with a wrong ‘un). Really enjoying this new role (as India captain). When I was playing under Rohit bhai’s captaincy in MI, I used to give my inputs whatever I felt at that time.

“For India also feeling good. I captained against Sri Lanka

previously against Australia and South Africa also. I have learnt from other captains on how to take the team forward. Aage dekhte hain. Chalthe rahta hain. Baaki aapko pata toh chal hee jayega (Let’s see how it goes. Rest you will know in due course of time),” that was Surya’s witty response to the IPL leadership question.

If all batters can bowl an over or two, it’s good for the team

Suryakumar himself bowled in the previous series against Sri Lanka and he is all for batters rolling their arm over for an over or two if the situation demands.

“It can only be good if we can get couple of overs from the batters. In this squad most of them can bowl. We saw that in Sri Lanka as well. If you have the skill why not.”

Veteran Australia pacer Schutt shines light on queer side of cricket



DUBAI, Oct 6 (Agencies): In the last few years, social media has proved to be a tool for women’s cricket. Not just from the fan engagement perspective, but the stories of the athletes have received a massive platform and there is no denying it. Just one look

at the ever-increasing engagement numbers published by the International Cricket Council after every women’s tournament is proof of that.

However, there is a gloomy side of social media that has affected the fans and athletes alike, especially the queer athletes. Australia pacer Megan Schutt is one of those players.

The 31-year-old has been a proud openly queer player and had to deal with inappropriate comments about her sexuality on social media. A firm believer in her thoughts, she has never shied away from voicing her opinions, however these days, she has decided to pick and choose who to reply to. “Firstly, I don’t call them all out,” Schutt told this daily.

“The ones that I feel are just trying to poke the bear. I don’t engage with them. They’re just using a derogatory comment because they can. Sometimes I feel like it can be in an uneducated way and that’s when I’ll probably react more because I feel like if we can have a civil conversation about something or engage in a conversation and change

someone’s mindset, that’s when things can change,” she added.

Schutt is not the only queer athlete at the ongoing T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates. England’s Natalie Sciver-Brunton and Danielle Wyatt-Hodge, New Zealand’s Lea Tahuhu, and Scotland’s Abbi Aitken-Drummond are some of the openly gay players of this edition. Most of them have faced similar harassment on social media, but Schutt has been vocal the most. “Sometimes it’s even as simple as saying what’s your problem? And then they’ll divulge and then realise that it’s not really a problem and it can lead to a decent discussion,” Schutt said.

“I feel like there’s a big education piece that’s available to people out there and that’s part of having a platform but also at the same time, people need to learn when something isn’t okay. And that’s when I’ll call them out and. The ones that float in between, I’ll let it slide obviously but now and again, some people need to be put in their place,” she added.

“IPL rule changed for MS dhoni, will keep changing till he wants to play”: Mohammad Kaif

NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (Agencies): The Indian Premier League (IPL) Governing Council brought back the old rule that allowed franchises to register players who have retired from international cricket or not played in a long time as ‘uncapped’. The rule allowed all 10 IPL franchises to rethink their retention strategies, but many believe that the changes were brought in especially for the legendary MS Dhoni, with Chennai Super Kings now capable of retaining him as an uncapped player for a small price

of INR 4 crore.

Though CSK claimed that they haven’t had any discussion with Dhoni on the matter yet, former India cricketer Mohammad Kaif has no doubts that IPL rules were changed simply because the organisers wanted Dhoni to continue playing.

“You will get the chance to see MS Dhoni again. He is fit, batting at a strike rate of 200, keeping well, and that is why I believe the rules will keep changing till he wants to play. If he wants to play in the IPL, he will play. He is such



a big player, such a big match-winner, and has been a leader for CSK,” said Kaif during a chat on Star Sports.

Though it’s a bold claim, Kaif doesn’t think the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was wrong in

making alterations in the rulebook. Kaif also feels that IPL rules will keep on changing till Dhoni decides to continue playing. But, Kaif doesn’t find anything wrong with it.

“I believe the rule has been changed rightly.

I believe if he is fit and playing well, why not, change the rule and let him play.

Everyone knows the rule has been changed for Dhoni sahab, and why not, you will want to change the rule for a player like Dhoni,” the former India batter asserted.

Dhoni had hinted that his continuity as a player in the IPL would depend upon the league’s retention rules. While the rules are officially out, the veteran wicket-keeper batter is yet to make his stance clear on the matter.

Premier League: Liverpool beat Crystal Palace 1-0



LONDON, Oct 6 (Agencies): Liverpool brushed past Crystal Palace thanks to Diego Jota’s lone goal on the night, handing the visitors a 1-0 victory at Selhurst Park. Palace were mere inches from the perfect start, flying forwards from kick-

off as Adam Wharton found Ismailia Sarr, who crossed for Eddie Nketiah to flick over the onrushing Alisson and into the back of the net inside 30 seconds – but the flag was up for off-side.

Liverpool showed why they are the league lead-

ers at this point of the season and responded to the early Palace dominance. An incisive pass driven into the path of Cody Gakpo in the left channel, who had the space to cross first time into the six-yard box, saw Diogo Jota open the scoring in the ninth minute, capping off his 100th start for the club with his name on the score sheet. Liverpool could have doubled their advantage in almost the same fashion, with Jota unable to turn home from the same distance he had scored from not long ago but scuffed his attempt.

International Cricket stars arrive in Srinagar for Legends League Matches

Grand Finale set for Oct 16 at Bakshi Stadium

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: Excitement fills the air as international cricket stars arrive in the valley for the much-anticipated Legends League Cricket (LLC) tournament. The event culminates with a grand finale scheduled for October 16 at Bakshi Stadium, where cricket enthusiasts are eager to witness the action.

Players received a warm

welcome from officials and enthusiastic locals who gathered to greet them upon their arrival in Srinagar. Among the cricketers in town are Shikhar Dhawan, Dinesh Karthik, Upul Tharanga, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Irfan Pathan, Yusuf Pathan, and Ian Bell. Fans are thrilled at the chance to see these celebrated players compete in what promises to be an exciting tournament.

Bakshi Stadium, historically known for hosting football matches, has undergone significant renovations to accommodate this international cricketing event. Experts from the United States have worked to transform the pitch, making it suitable for both cricket and football.

With seven matches scheduled from October 9 to October 16, the tournament offers a thrilling

spectacle. Teams competing in this final leg include India Capitals, Gujarat Giants, Konark Suryas, Manipal Tigers, Southern Super Stars, and Urbanisers Hyderabad, all vying for the championship title.

Given the event's significance, security measures have been heightened to ensure the safety of players, officials, and spectators. Senior officials from Jammu and Kashmir

Police, along with other security agencies, have crafted a comprehensive security plan. A senior police official stated, "We have left no stone unturned in ensuring maximum security. Multi-tiered checkpoints, constant surveillance, and enhanced patrolling will be part of our strategy. We are fully prepared to handle any situation and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone."

JKTJAC holds monthly meeting in Udhampur

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Oct 6: The Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) held its monthly meeting in Udhampur on Sunday, convened under the leadership of UT President Vinod Sharma and District President Lekh Raj Parihar. The meeting brought together representatives from all eleven zones of the district to address pressing issues affecting the teaching community. Vinod Sharma opened the discussions by emphasizing the urgent need for the reintroduction of the Old Pension Scheme for employees appointed after January 1, 2010. He argued that the current National Pension System (NPS) disadvantages many teachers, depriving them of adequate benefits upon retirement. This concern was echoed by several attendees who shared personal stories about the financial challenges they face after leaving



service.

Sharma further raised the issue of a comprehensive transfer policy for teachers appointed under the ReT scheme, highlighting that many have been stationed in the same schools for over 20 years, which has adversely affected their professional growth and well-being, particularly for female educators. Among the other key demands discussed were the regularization of ReTs who have completed their five-year tenure, the conversion of RRETs to Teacher Grade II/III, and the timely

release of time-barred arrears. The group also advocated for elevating teacher grades to be on par with those in other Union Territories. Lekh Raj Parihar urged the Chief Education Officer to expedite the release of outstanding Mid-Day Meal (MDM) dues and ensure the timely completion of teachers' service records. The meeting concluded with a strong commitment to advocating for the rights and welfare of educators, highlighting the need for swift administrative action to address these long-standing issues.

Contractual system of appointments marred career of thousands of educated youths: Rao

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 6: Strongly assailing the contractual system of appointment in Higher Secondary Schools in Education Department during the year 2019 when thousands of highly educated youths opted for adjustments getting frustrated & dejected remaining unemployed & feeling themselves as a burden on the parents, an independent candidate from Jammu North-79 Assembly constituency, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, in a press statement issued here have termed it as a clear bankruptcy of mind of those at the helm of affairs responsible for framing contractual policy of employment of Hr. Secondary School Lecturers as also in Colleges as contractual Assistant Professors & worst of it the policy was abandoned when thousands of them attained upper age of limit prescribed by the government. Rao further expressed great surprise & dismay that has now again revived the policy of remaining mum over those who attained upper age limit in the previous spell to the annoyance of thousands of affected families across J&K, thanks to the non-seriousness of the policy makers. He further observed that if the contractual policy is being revived keeping an eye on elections in 2024, then ruling dispensation is badly mistaken because first bleeding the wounds of thousands of needy & deserving families who have been rendered hopeless attaining upper



age of limit terming the attempt as putting the cart ahead of the horse.

Rao further said that the promise of providing 2 crore jobs annually to the youths of the country in 2014 and 50,000 jobs to the youths of J&K after abrogation of Art. 370 still haunts the minds of young people here, which never saw the light of the day. Adding fuel to the fire, several thousands of youths engaged on contractual basis, ad-hoc basis, daily wagers or need based arrangements in all departments be it Home guard, Education, PDD, PHE, Health, Food & civil supplies & so on so forth has compounded the miseries of frustrated youths with every passing day as scores of them are crossing age limit or nearing the same without any hope of Achhe Din, he maintained and said that previous leaders of successive state governments are squarely responsible for the present mess who, without any planning & application of mind, adjusted the youths simply to create vote banks & appease their kith & kins, has put thousands of youths in great dilemma & worst confusion, he claimed & maintained that Educational Institutions were

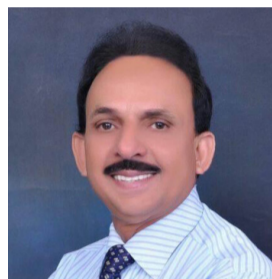
opened with political considerations without proper infrastructure in place, Health Institutions sanctioned without availability of staff & Buildings.

Rao further said that with the abrogation of Art. 370, the highly educated ignored & neglected unemployed youth, had pinned high hopes that really (Achhe Din) will come and concrete educational policy shall mitigate their suffering through proper absorption but unfortunately that did not happen even after waiting for about long 5 years' in the current dispensation and aphorism is still prevailing in practice. It is strongly felt that the most important Education sector is deliberately being ignored so as to keep the masses illiterate which could be easy to rule. It is appealed before the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha coming after 8th October, 2024, a new elected coalition government, to take cognizance of the deteriorating plight of highly educated unemployed youths & also student community across Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir due to non-availability of teaching staff and to take immediate necessary steps so that filling up of all vacant posts of Teachers in Schools & all the vacant posts in Govt. Degree colleges and Govt. Hr. Sec. Schools are taken up on a fast track basis, and the future of students is saved to some extent.

Dr. Uppal, Principal of GGSCMT, is awarded the "Authors of New Era Award-2024"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 6: With a great sense of pride, TAOI shows its appreciation to Dr. R.K Uppal by presenting him with "The Authors of New Era Award". His hard work, dedication, and commitment to this field have enabled him to achieve this recognition as a result of his hard work, dedication, and commitment. In a gesture of respect, this award is given to authors who have made outstanding contributions to the field of literature as a gesture of respect. The award is an honor to recognize such incredible minds in India, and it is not an academic award or certificate. Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a distinguished Emeritus Professor and acclaimed academician, currently serves as Professor-cum-Principal at Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology, Glderbaha, Punjab, India. He holds the esteemed position of MTC Global Chair Professor of Banking and Finance and is a Research Professor at the Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi. Dr. Uppal's expertise extends further as a Visiting Professor at various institutions including Trinity Group of Institutions, KC Group of Institutions, Vishisht



School of Management, and others across India. Born in a modest setting near Bathinda District, Punjab, Dr. Uppal's journey from humble beginnings to scholarly heights underscores his unwavering passion for knowledge and learning. He embarked on his academic career at D.A.V. College, Malout in 1987 as a part-time lecturer, ascending to his current eminent role through dedication and scholarly prowess. Dr. Uppal is recognized internationally for his profound contributions to Banking and Finance, evidenced by numerous national and international patents stemming from his research. A prolific writer and mentor, he has authored numerous scholarly works and serves as a frequent reviewer, discussant, and session chair for professional organizations. His visionary leadership and scholarly endeavors continue to inspire and shape the academic landscape in the field of Finance.

Shiv Sena raises concerns over nominated MLAs and Voter Mandate



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 6: The Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has voiced serious concerns about the potential manipulation of the electoral mandate through the introduction of nominated MLAs. In a press conference at the party's state central office, State Chief Manish Sahni criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for allegedly attempting to alter the political landscape under the guise of nominations. He warned that misusing

the provision of nomination to shift the balance between majority and minority could have detrimental consequences for democracy. Sahni pointed to exit polls suggesting that the BJP is significantly short of a majority, which raises suspicions about their motives for seeking five MLAs nominated by the Lieutenant Governor. He urged the central government and the Lieutenant Governor to ensure equal rights for both Jammu and Kashmir, stressing the importance of avoiding any

actions that could exacerbate divisions between the two regions. With the newly proposed arrangement, the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly will consist of 95 members, including the five nominated MLAs. This adjustment means that the majority required to form a government will be set at 48. Sahni's statements reflect growing apprehension among opposition parties about the integrity of the electoral process and the potential implications for governance in the region.

JKCA issues clarification on Umran Malik's recovery status

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 6: The Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) has addressed media inquiries regarding fast bowler Umran Malik's current status and potential return to the Indian cricket team. Brig Anil Gupta, a member of the JKCA administration, urged cricket fans and media outlets to refrain from excessive speculation about Malik's comeback, as it may negatively impact the morale of the young athlete. In a statement, Brig Gupta noted that Malik was selected for this season's prestigious Duleep Trophy but unfortunately contracted dengue fever, sidelining him from the tournament. Following his recovery, he faced further setbacks with a toe injury and subsequently a hamstring injury. After returning from the hamstring issue, Malik report-

ed discomfort in his left hip, leading to scans that revealed a stress fracture.

Brig Gupta highlighted that extensive consultations with specialists, including radiologists and infectious disease experts, have taken place over the past week to determine the cause of Malik's unusual condition. He is currently in an off-loading phase for the next four to six weeks and will undergo further evaluation before progressing to the next stage of his recovery.

Brig Gupta emphasized the importance of respecting Malik's privacy during this challenging time and encouraged fans to pray for his swift recovery. Mithun Manhas, a member of the JKCA's Cricket Operations and Development, expressed hope that after fully recuperating, Malik would return to the field with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

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